

West's defence at risk in Civil Service strikes

Britain's Nato allies are deeply concerned by a union plan for selective strikes of key defence workers after today's 24-hour protest stoppage by civil servants over pay. The country's secret surveillance communications network would be disrupted and, union leaders say, "there will be both national and international repercussions".

Selective action after 24-hour stoppage

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The defence capability of the West will be undermined and British tax-gathering severely disrupted by selective strikes among civil servants being mounted in the wake of today's 24-hour protest stoppage over pay.

A top-level warning has been given to union leaders that their plan to call out fewer than 100 key workers in Britain's secret communications surveillance network is causing deep concern among Nato allies.

Union leaders last night refused to give details of their disruption programme, but understood that members of three different unions are to strike at government communications headquarters in Cheltenham and at the secret tracking station in Bude, Cornwall.

Ministers have warned the unions that the United States Government is deeply concerned by the impact of such action on the surveillance of Soviet warship movements and on the strategic cover of top-secret signals traffic.

Civil Service union leaders yesterday announced their first "tranche" of industrial action would only say: "There will be a range of selective and disruptive action which will affect Britain's secret communications surveillance network."

There will be both national and international repercussions. The Reagan administration has already indicated that the United States funding of the stations and listening devices might be stopped if the American cannot be satisfied that the system will be isolated from industrial relations crisis in Britain's secret services.

Computer operators being brought out

But the disruption also extends to naval and RAF supply and communications facilities, and the Polaris submarine base on the Clyde. The unions confidently expect that Britain will have to pull out of the biennial "Winter" military exercise which amounts to a Nato dry-run of preparations for a total war with the Soviet Union.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU), said yesterday: "We are fed up with the Whitehall brotly-broghed-up. People should know there are many thousands of civil servants who do not wear striped pants and work in offices, but are scientists, technicians and engineers."

The unions are bringing out computer operators at the naval supply centres at Eggescliffe, near Middlesbrough, Llangennech, near Swansea, and Ennlegh, Bath, which they say will mean "delays and chaos for Nato".

Computers will also be stopped at the naval dockyards at Chatham, Portsmouth, Devon-

Chancellor set to raise taxes by £3,000m

By David Blake
and Fred Emery

A black Budget pushing up taxes by more than £3,000m, is likely to be announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, tomorrow. The tax rises will mean sharp increases in the price of beer and other drinks, petrol and cigarettes.

Income tax allowances are likely to be raised by only five per cent instead of the 15 per cent to meet inflation, which means that the real burden of tax will rise for all but the poorest.

Reports over the weekend suggested that beer would rise by 3p a pint, petrol by 15p a gallon and cigarettes by 12p for a packet of 20. Wine is thought likely to get off fairly easily, going up by between 10p and 12p a bottle, but spirits may rise by more than 60p a bottle.

These increases in most cases would represent a 30 per cent rise since the last Budget, twice the increase justified by straight application of the inflation rate to the end of last year.

Ministers will say that the real value of duty has been falling for many years and that they are just restoring some of its value. Big increases are inevitable and if a full 30 per cent goes through it would raise more than £1,800m from consumers.

The only slightly bright note for families is the prospect of a 10 per cent increase in child benefit. Combined with £1,500m saved by not giving full increase in tax allowances, this will be used to cut the Government deficit.

Big cash handouts for industry are unlikely although heavy oil duty may be cut.

The Budget is expected to contribute £5,000m to the deficit of the economy when combined with increases in insurance contributions and other measures announced last autumn.

But interest rates will be cut, probably by 2 or 3 per cent, and the Chancellor may have some words of encouragement for industrialists worried about the impact of the strong pound on their competitiveness.

The Budget is likely to be a final attempt to restore credibility to the Government's financial strategy.

Gloomy Treasury forecasts presented to the Chancellor as he prepared the measures emphasized the fact that public borrowing and growth of the money supply this year are well above target.

Borrowing during this financial year is expected to be £3,000m more than planned at about £13,500m, and measures are needed to bring next year's forecast borrowing down to about £11,000m.

Even this figure is far above the £7,500m estimate contained in the strategy, which was produced at the time of the last Budget. But the Government believes that the extra borrowing is caused by recession which is deeper than expected and does not jeopardize control of money growth.

Treasury officials now expect the economy to keep sliding downhill until the summer, instead of levelling out about now as they were predicting only a few months ago.

This and a failure to cut spending has pushed borrowing up to a level which is thought to put the Government's strategy at risk.

Although the main thrust of that policy is likely to be re-affirmed by the Chancellor tomorrow, there are expected to be changes in the money supply is controlled and the form in which monetary targets are set.

The Government hopes that a cut in interest rates will both encourage stockbuilding and investment and get the pound to a more competitive level. It is felt that high public borrowing may have hurt the economy by forcing up interest rates and thus attracting money from abroad.

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Most of Suchitoto's inhabitants have fled, leaving ransacked buildings and political graffiti

An eerily empty town reflects the tragedy of El Salvador

From Michael Leapman
Suchitoto, El Salvador, March 8

It is hard to tell whether the people of this once pleasant town, 30 miles north-east of San Salvador, agree with President Reagan's policy of using their country as a proving ground for his determination to thwart communism. It is hard because not many of them are still here.

Two-thirds of the population of some 20,000 have fled since the town became the site of a battle between leftist guerrillas and government forces during the guerrillas' final offensive in January. Many are housed in pathetic conditions at La

Bermuda, a refugee camp in a former colonial farmstead eight miles away.

The town, the refugee camp and the dangerous hills surrounding them are a microcosm of the disaster afflicting this country. They make a textbook study of how a political conflict turns into a contest for power and survival, fuelled by greed and hatred. On the ground here, it has little to do with ideology.

As the visitor drives in, the streets are eerily empty. He notices first the burnt-out petrol stations, then the ransacked buildings, the left-wing political graffiti scrawled on the walls.

On the main square, the Catholic church stands miraculously unharmed. Opposite, shops with blackened walls have been boarded up.

On the cobbled streets leading off the square to military headquarters, a score or more women and children queue with pans for water from an army tanker. The main supply was destroyed by a guerrilla bomb two weeks ago. Further on, is a burnt-out bus, the international symbol of turmoil.

Down another street is the Cafe Cantikal, where a black-

bearded gunman wearing a straw stetson and with a 38 calibre pistol sticking out of his trouser belt explained his role in the conflict. He was a member of the civil patrol, an informal militia that helps the Army and security services and from whose ranks the "death squads" who murder suspected leftists are believed to be drawn.

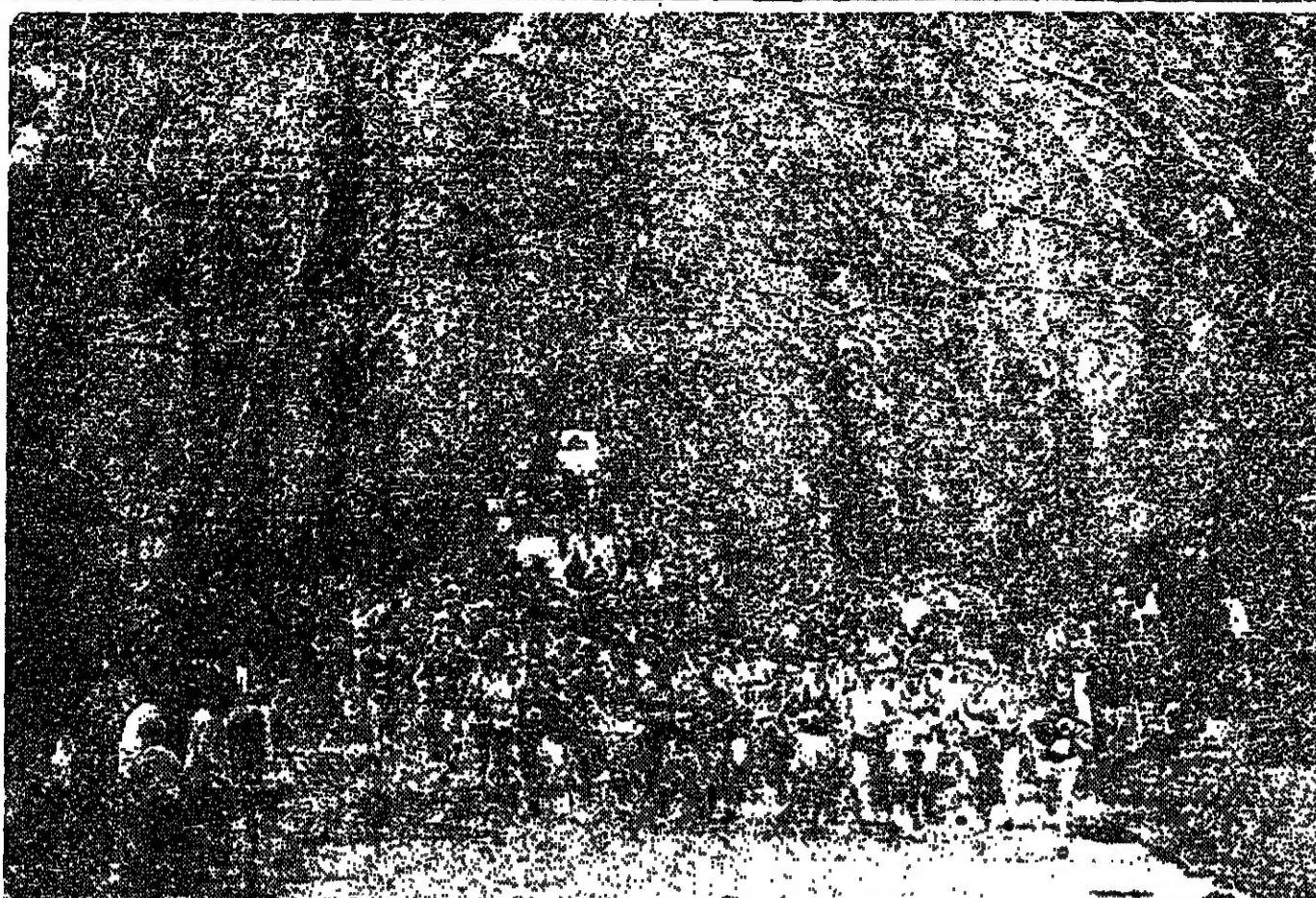
He described atrocities by left-wing guerrillas when the town was in their hands briefly during the January offensive. "They rounded up people and tied bags over their heads," he said. "Then they tied them up together and set off a Cleymore mine under them."

Next day, he said, they killed seven more and began burning sugar and coffee fields. "What would he do if he caught one of those responsible?" "I would make them pay for it," he said. "I've never taken prisoners."

Tales of horror by the right are offered by inmates of La Bermuda refugee camp down the road, where 1,400 dirty and bedraggled people, mostly children, have fled from the turmoil of the war.

Many children have spots, rashes and infectious diseases.

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Runners practising in Battersea Park yesterday for the Gillette London Marathon on March 29

Diplomatic campaign mounted by Moscow

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr Victor Popov, the Soviet Ambassador, is to call on Mrs Margaret Thatcher today to deliver a letter believed to contain a message from President Brezhnev explaining his recent proposals for a summit meeting with President Reagan.

Similar letters were delivered at the weekend to Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and President Giscard d'Estaing in Paris.

Although details of the contents have not been revealed, the letters are presumed to elaborate on the views expressed by the Soviet leader at last month's Communist Party Congress in Moscow.

In what was considered to be a definitive statement of Soviet policy, Mr Brezhnev called for a meeting with President Reagan and offered to halt the development of Russian submarines and to extend military confidence-building measures to the West did the same. He agreed to a proposal from France that advance notification should be extended for military exercises in European Russia, up to the Urals.

He also called on Nato to stop the deployment of American missiles in Europe.

Washington has reacted cautiously to Mr Brezhnev's overtures as the Soviet leader attempts to win concerted European support for his summit initiative.

His letter to Herr Schmidt was delivered on Saturday, the day before Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, flew to Washington for talks. Herr Schmidt said in a West German radio interview yesterday that he

Kabul hijackers fly out with 111 hostages

Islamabad, March 8.—A Pakistani airliner hijacked by Afghanistan seven days ago left Kabul today for Lamazoom with 111 hostages passengers and crew apparently still on board, a Pakistani Government official said.

The Soviet news agency Tass reported from the Afghan capital that the three Pakistani hijackers had a brief meeting with the Libyan Ambassador to Afghanistan before the Boeing 720 took off.

It said they condemned the Pakistani Government for not meeting their demand for the release of 92 alleged political prisoners.

The official Afghan news agency Bekhtar said the aircraft was allowed to leave Kabul because the Pakistani Government's decision to break off negotiations with the hijackers had provoked a "dangerous situation".

Bekhtar said: "On the evening of March 8 the Pakistani Government suddenly and

Concerto of confusion over Chopin recordings

By Martin Huckerby
Music Reporter

A record of Chopin's first piano concerto which has been on sale for more than a decade as one of the rare recordings by the late Romantic virtuoso Dinu Lipatti is exactly the same as a record of the work by Halina Czerny-Stefanska, a Polish pianist.

On BBC Radio 3's Music Weekly programme yesterday, Mr Robin Ray explained how a listener had pointed out that the records sounded alike, and he demonstrated on the programme that the performances were one and the same.

The Lipatti record was first issued by EMI in 1955, and was reissued as part of a boxed set last year. The LP by Miss Czerny-Stefanska was issued in the early 1950s by the Czech record company, Supraphon.

Mr Peter Andry, Director of EMI's international classical division, said yesterday: "You can imagine the embarrassment to us." He said their record was made from a tape, with an unnamed orchestra and conductor, which originated with a Dr Kasper in Switzerland, who had subsequently died.

He said the tape had been authenticated as a Lipatti performance by both Mrs Madeleine Lipatti, his widow, and by the late Walter Legge his recording manager. Since the new discovery, he had spoken to Mrs Lipatti in France; he said she was "very upset" about the whole business, but was still convinced that it was a recording by her husband.

EMI was trying to unravel the matter Mr Andry said. Another tape had recently turned up of the same E minor concerto, which was said to be a recording of a broadcast by Lipatti with the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, and it was suggested that the record issued by EMI might be a rehearsal for that broadcast.

The Supraphon record listed the performance as by Miss Czerny-Stefanska with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra under Václav Smetacek, and appeared within two or three years of Lipatti's early death in 1950.

The Polish pianist is no longer well known in the west, but in 1949 she won joint first prize in the Warsaw Chopin competition, and two years later performed in London what was described as an extremely subtle performance of the Chopin E Minor Piano Concerto.

Curtains for Sunday performance

By Our Theatre Reporter

Last night's performance of the West End variety show *That's Showbiz* was called off by Mr Stephen Kendall-Lane, the producer, who said most of the cast were frightened to go on stage.

An injunction was issued in the High Court on Thursday which had the effect of forbidding Equity, the actors' union, from interfering with last night's performance. The union had previously instructed members not to work on Sunday, but after the injunction it delivered letters to the cast on Friday saying that the injunction was "withdrawn until such time as the order of the court is revoked or modified".

Nevertheless, most of the cast of 31 were worried at the consequences of performing, fearing that they might lose their union cards eventually.

Mr Kendall-Lane said that about 100 tickets had been sold for the performance before they stopped taking bookings on Saturday night. More people were turned away at the doors. At about the time the curtain should have gone up about 50 members of the public were admitted to the Phoenix Theatre where a lone pianist was playing in the stalls.

As the bemused audience filed in, the pianist was interrupted by the arrival of Danny La Rue.

Although he knew the show had been cancelled, he had travelled from Bristol to support the cast because, he said, "I was bloody furious".

Mr Kendall-Lane said they would continue the fight. He apologized to the public and offered them either their money back or tickets for another night.

The band gave a brief rendering of the overture to the production, "A Live Show is the Best Show" before audience and cast headed dispiritedly into the night.

Japanese asked to help British Steel

Nippon Steel, the world's most efficient producer of steel, has been asked by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, to provide advanced technology for the corporation in the reconstruction of some of its mills. The spokesman for the Japanese company said the technology "will increase BSC's yield and decrease production costs".

Bani-Sadr 'treason'

Hojatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, the Iranian former religious judge, publicly demanded the trial of President Bani-Sadr for treason because of a violent political rally in Tehran on Thursday. He was speaking in Parliament during a national funeral over the violence in which even one of the President's clerical supporters accused him of megalomania.

Polish Jews blamed

A Warsaw rally was told that Jews were responsible for evils under Stalinism. It was timed to coincide with a university meeting commemorating 1968 demands for freedom and the subsequent riots, condemned at the time as "Zionist".

Car with two chassis unveiled by Lotus

Lotus unveiled a revolutionary twin-chassis Grand Prix T88 car in London before flying it out to California for track tests. The two chassis overcome vibrations that make cars impossible to drive on the limits. The T88 may line up alongside two conventional Lotususes in the first race of the season in the United States next Sunday.

An Oxford golf first

Miss Jane Tucker, an economics undergraduate at Wadham College, Oxford, will be the first woman to represent the university at golf when she plays for the second team against Cambridge in the annual match on March 18. With Cambridge's consent she will play off the women's tees at Southcot, and Ainsdale.

Art detective story

An art detective story will end next month with the sale at Christie's of a painting by Adam Elsheimer which is the last missing part of a seven-panel tapestry dated about 1600 and, until recently, believed lost.

Parties woo blacks

The Labour and the Conservative parties are trying to woo the black electorate. During the past 18 months they have been trying to persuade local parties to consider non-white candidates.

Hang-gliders used in attack on Israel

Two Palestinian guerrillas tried to attack Israel by flying over the frontier from Lebanon on sporting-type hang-gliders equipped with small motors. But only one managed to reach Israel and both were captured exhausted and asleep.

British tennis win

Britain beat Italy 3-2 in the Davis Cup at Brighton, thus qualifying for a place in the last eight against New Zealand. Britain led 2-1 at the start of yesterday's play, but Patuxia beat Lewis to level the score. Mottram then won the deciding singles.

Defence pledge: Mr John Nott

promised a study later this year of "crucial questions".

Government alert: Councils failing to achieve savings targets have received a warning that their freedom might be curtailed.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 24, 26; Appointments, 20, 23, 24; Reader Services, Directory, 22; Property, 23.

Leader page, 13

Letters: On Canada's constitution, from Francis O. Wood, Philip Phillips and others; planning charges, from Mr D. R. Fryer and others.

Leading articles: Irish neutrality; Poland's crisis continues.

Features: pages 12, 14. Michael Leapman's diary from San Salvador; Profile of a royal look-alike; Our Medical Correspondent examines the problems of acne.

Arts, page 7. John Percival on Ballet Rambert's new *Rule of Spring*; Michael Church on LWT's *Seven Days Mystery*; Michael Leapman interviews Blair Brown, romantic interest in the latest Ken Russell film; William Gowers reviews William Gowers' *God's Fifth Column*.

Sport, pages 8-11. Rugby Union: Threat to Blakeway's career; Ireland make two changes against Scotland; Skins: Phil Mahre threatens Stearns' title; Cricket: Willey shows encouraging form for England; Ice skating: John Hennessey reviews world championships.

Obituary, page 15. Mr Fred Lewis, Mr George Geary.

Business News, pages 16-21. Finance Editor: A Chancellor in hostile territory; monopoly policy—case by case. Business features: Rough Clayton on why food prices have marked time over the past 12 months; John Keeble on corruption in Nigeria; Derek Harris on black days for the white goods industry.

Parliament, 15. TV & Radio, 25. Premium Bonds, 15. Property, 23. Religion, 15. 25 Years Ago, 15. Weather, 15. Science, 15. Wills, 15. Snow reports, 11.

Peterlee has got it taped...

Peterlee's record in attracting industry to the town is second to none. In 1980 our level of enquiries rose by 80%.

That's why Suzanne McKay, one of our industrial development officers, has recorded a message on tape that all industrialists considering expansion or re-structuring should hear.

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(We call this our "after-sales service").

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Telex 537246

Please send me the cassette containing Suzanne McKay's message.

Name _____
Position _____
Company _____
Address _____

Survey contradicts findings that children achieve better results in single-sex schools

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Evidence that pupils do better in single-sex than in mixed schools will have to be reviewed in the light of new findings.

A report to be published by the Government later this year, giving the results of the second national survey of the performance in mathematics of pupils aged 15, says that although the overall findings confirmed earlier studies in suggesting that both boys and girls do better in single-sex schools, a different picture emerged when schools were divided into two groups, comprehensive and those with a selective intake.

Then it was found that in comprehensive schools there was no difference at all in the performance of pupils in single-sex and mixed schools; selective schools accounted for the entire difference in performance between single-sex and mixed schools.

The survey was carried out by the Assessment of Performance Unit (APU), which is part of the Department of Education and Science.

Without further investigation, it was impossible to judge whether that difference was related to the type of the school or to some other factor such as a tendency for grammar schools to be single sex and secondary moderns mixed, the report says.

The APU's first national survey of the performance of pupils aged 15 in English language (reading and writing), which is also to be published later this year, indicates as well that girls and boys do better in single-sex schools, except in Northern Ireland where no significant difference was found.

In Northern Ireland, only 44 per cent of pupils are in mixed schools compared with 79 per cent in England, and 93 per cent in Wales.

Unfortunately, the schools in the English-language survey were not divided into comprehensive and selective schools. But the report emphasizes just because a school's sex-type is found to be associated with pupil performance, they are not necessarily causally related.

Overall, the surveys showed that in all types of school boys tended to do better than girls in mathematics, but much less well in writing (where tests included style and content as well as grammar and spelling) and about the same as girls in reading.

Differences found in pupils' performance in different regions produced an inconclusive picture. For reading, pupils' performance in England as a whole was better than in Northern Ireland, although Northern Ireland scored higher than England in the APU's earlier survey of 11-year-olds.

No significant difference was found in the scores for writing between the regions. But in the secondary school mathematics survey, England and Northern Ireland obtained the highest scores and Wales

the lowest, while in the APU's earlier mathematics survey of 11-year-olds, Wales had scored higher than England, and Northern Ireland highest of all.

Paradoxically, the results of the English language survey suggest that pupils do worse in schools with the more favourable teacher-pupil ratios. That may be explained by the fact that schools with favourable teacher-pupil ratios tend to be found in poorer areas.

Less than 1 per cent of the 10,000 15-year-old pupils involved in the English language survey were found to be illiterate when judged by the criteria of being "able to read with understanding, and to express themselves in writing in such a way as to be understood by others".

Four out of five pupils said they liked to read by themselves for pleasure, although only a quarter liked to read "for hours on end". Just over half preferred to read comics or magazines rather than books. One third enjoyed reading poetry.

On the writing tests, nearly half of the pupils produced work containing only very few grammatical errors, and the work of a third showed no more than a few spelling errors.

The APU has decided to extend its English-language monitoring programme which, like mathematics and science, is to be carried out annually, to include listening and speaking skills.

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Fluttering and dancing in yesterday's stiff breezes: daffodils near Hyde Park Corner.

Mr Heseltine warns councils on savings

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Local authorities have received a warning that they must achieve government savings targets.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, addressing the Conservative Party local government conference in London on Saturday, defended his actions in asking for reduced spending and in introducing the block grant system, and congratulated Conservative councils on their achievements.

Looking ahead to the county council elections on May 7, he said the Conservatives were the only ones capable of challenging the left.

Mr Heseltine said the Government was elected to reduce the public sector, and that local government could not be exempted. "I believe the targets we have set ourselves are reasonable in all the circumstances. There are no soft or easy options."

Answering criticisms on the block grant, he said it would have been wrong to have delayed its introduction. Its benefits would be seen soon. A period of stability would enable councils to take advantage of the changes.

Local authorities had a good record of achieving targets

except in the last year, and they were not responsible for the setting of the spending targets. But when the Government had set them, councils must achieve them, and they must do so in the voluntary climate that existed.

The system was worth preserving, but he had to persuade the bill payers that it was, and they were asking the Government to take more powers to control local expenditure.

Mr Heseltine urged councils to use outside accountants to help them to make savings. He pointed to the success of the government exercise in the water industry, where savings of £86m had been found in two weeks with the help of outside experts.

Mr Heseltine's emphasis on the need for the voluntary compliance by local authorities in making reductions was underlined by Mr Tom King, minister for local government, which clearly indicated the Government's concern that councils overall appear to be budgeting to overspend during the coming year.

The threat of further government action remained veiled, and Mr King would not be drawn on the question of whether outside accountants would be sent into authorities to find savings.

Delegates to the conference,

particularly from London, complained about the effect of the block grant and the inevitable high rate increases it would mean.

Mr Nicholas Freeman, leader of Kensington and Chelsea, said it had complied with every government guideline but because of the Inner London Education Authority's precept and the loss of grant, its increase would be 3.5 per cent. Had anybody told Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who lives in the borough, what her rate increase would be, he asked.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, told the conference he hoped that Sandwell councillors who dismissed Miss Joanna Harris for refusing to join a union would be charged if an industrial tribunal awarded her damages.

"No council ought to be allowed to get away with that sort of action," he said. Mr Prior added that until the passing of the Employment Act, Miss Harris would not have had any remedy over her dismissal, and that the Government would continue looking to see what other remedies were available.

His comments brought a strong reaction from Mr Frank Cooney, a member of Hereford and Worcester County Council, who said: "I am fed up with listening to your explanations.

Grasp the nettle and get us rid of this evil." But Mr Prior defended his step-by-step approach to the Act.

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, gave an assurance of support for council tenants who were delayed in their attempts to buy their homes.

He said: "The Government is not prepared to see those who have a wholly valid and wholly legitimate legal right to buy their homes, conferred on them by Parliament, being subjected to unreasonable delay, ceaseless frustration or outright political obstruction."

Tenants need to be in no doubt that the Government would take what steps were necessary to see that those who had exercised their legal right to buy their homes did become home owners.

The low-key conference was enlivened by a visit from Mrs Thatcher during the lunch break to give Conservative councillors encouragement for the forthcoming elections.

Lord Thorneycroft, party chairman, also added his support. He told the delegates: "Do not pretend that the fight ahead is an easy one, but I want you to win it." He admitted that after two years the Government was unpopular, but there would be no U-turn.

Churches urge fast over public spending

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

As if in defiance of the Prime Minister's warning to churches not to descend the political arena and sides, the Church of England, Methodist, and Roman Catholic departments concerned.

calling today for a "fast justice in public expenditure."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, speaking at St Lawrence Jewry in the City of London last Tuesday, said that if the church took sides on practical issues, "this can only weaken the church, whose members ideally should help the cause of all political parties."

Today the British Council Churches is putting on sale 5p, a prayer leaflet entitled "Lenten Fast for Justice Public Expenditure".

of prayer and fasting for cause is being organized March 23 by the Board Social Responsibility of General Synod of the Church of England, the Division of St. Paul's, the Methodist Conference, and the Social Commission of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference England and Wales.

It was planned before Thatcher's address on Wednesday, but her comment on the gulf between her own vision of the churches' duty and the Government's.

The leaflet descends into political arena to the extent of discussing the benefits of housing, unemployment, and the level of overspend.

Dr William Johnston, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, night described the Government's economic policy as "immoral, inhuman, and pious in the sight of God."

In his sermon to the service at St John's, K. Perth, Dr Johnston said: "Accelerating unemployment reaches its saddest and most when it affects you people."

"Is there any economic theory that can justify the degradation of human life in this dehumanizing of the individual, to say nothing of the time-bomb of resentment if we set ticking into the future."

Return air fares of £99 from Gatwick airport and Manchester to New York are to be offered on selected flights this summer by Jetset, a company specializing in transatlantic holidays.

That is the same price as it charges single standard fare to British Airways, Transair Airlines and Pan American Airways, and is below the cheaper fare on Laker Airways, which pioneered curried Atlantic travel.

Jetset said yesterday that passengers paying £99 return would be given free meals, wine and cocktails. There would also be in-flight films.

The low fare will be available only on six departures in May, June and October. Bookings, which full payment is required, should be made three-and-a-half weeks in advance of travel.

Jetset said that in the summer its normal "latesave" fare would rise to £179, but claim that that would still be the lowest return fare available, compared with £190 on Laker and £256 on BA, Panam and TWA.

Mr Reginald Pycroft, managing director of Jetset, said: "We decided to launch the price-cutting fare at Bude time to show people that air can come down, as well as up."

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman of the Commons penal affairs group, said the Bill would have the group's support.

Prisoners' rights, page 14

Boat pledge sought

Mr David Clark, an opposition spokesman on defence yesterday, demanded an assurance that the Government would countermand the "prposterous and scandalous" suggestion that five Royal Naval patrol boats might be built in Hongkong.

like the Star Chamber court which the cuts were made in ill-judged and incompatible with those civilized values which the council rightly claimed to represent.

Complaining of the lack of any coherent justification for the change in policy, he said it was wrong to cut grants to the National Youth Orchestra, the National Youth Band and the National Youth Theatre, criticized the treatment of the Old Vic Company and suggested the council ought to have given a grant to the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

St John-Stewas attack on Arts Council cuts

By Our Theatre Reporter

Criticism of the Arts Council over its ending of grants to 41 organizations reached a new pitch yesterday with an attack by Mr Norman St John-Stewas, who was Minister for the Arts at the time of the cuts last December.

The council has received a welter of complaints about the cuts but many have been from companies which lost their grants. Mr St John-Stewas's condemnation may prove much more embarrassing.

In an article in *The Sunday Times*, he suggested that the council had appeared to act

like the Star Chamber court which the cuts were made in ill-judged and incompatible with those civilized values which the council rightly claimed to represent.

Complaining of the lack of any coherent justification for the change in policy, he said it was wrong to cut grants to the National Youth Orchestra, the National Youth Band and the National Youth Theatre, criticized the treatment of the Old Vic Company and suggested the council ought to have given a grant to the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

from the labour market to leave more jobs for the unemployed.

Government plans are due to be announced next month to reform and expand the industrial training system. The proposal of the police review staff extends the plan the Secretary of State for Employment is already considering to offer all school leavers a year of training.

McAliskey poll entry hint

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Speculations are growing that Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, former MP for Mid Ulster, who was seriously wounded in a shooting in January, will contest the coming Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election.

On Saturday she made her first public appearance since the attack, when she attended the funeral of Mr Frank Maguire, a close friend for many years, who had held the seat since 1974.

Mrs McAliskey used crutches and her right leg was in plaster. She has called a press conference for today to announce her plans, which will almost certainly include returning to an active role in the National Black Committee, which is organizing the protest campaign in support of Mr Bobby Sands, the IRA man who has been on hunger strike for a week.

She would have an excellent chance of winning the final seat, partly because the Unionist vote will be split between the rival parties and because the shooting has created a great deal of public sympathy for her.

Protestant job: Channing demonstrators picketed the maximum security Armagh jail in Northern Ireland yesterday.

A mandating political status for 29 women prisoners (the Press Association reports).

Organizers said that 600 people from all over Europe attended the one-hour protest. The 29 women are refusing to carry out normal prison duties, but have interrupted a "direct" protest in focus attention on Mr Sands' hunger strike.

He is backing the demand for political status for IRA prisoners.

Shelter launches homes drive in Ulster

By A Staff Reporter

Shelter, the homeless, is launching a campaign in support of its new offshoot in Northern Ireland.

An article in the charity's magazine *Roof*, published today, says that nearly a third of houses in the province need immediate repair or renewal. More than three times as many houses as in England lack basic amenities.

More than a quarter of the unfit dwellings are concentrated in Belfast, and there is a heavy backlog of urgent repairs to public authority housing.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive estimates that it should build 5,000 homes a year for the next 10 years.

1981 Royal Gold Medal won by British architect

By Charles McKean

Sir Philip Dawson has won the 1981 Royal Gold Medal for architecture, an award which will be greeted with great pleasure internationally and by those interested in fine architecture.

The Royal Gold Medal is awarded annually on the recommendation of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Its recipients over the past century have included eminent figures (not necessarily architects) from all over the world.

Sir Philip is the senior partner of Arup Associates, the architects, engineers, and planners, engineers. Sir Ove Arup is a previous recipient of the medal.

Arup Associates have designed a corpus of modern buildings whose collective quality is possibly unmatched by any other British firm. Notable achievements include new buildings to St John's College, Oxford, Leckhampton House in Cambridge, the restoration of the Maltings at Snape, University of East Anglia Music School, the new CEB headquarters at Bedminster Down, Bristol, and Lloyds Underwriters, at the Gunwharf, Chatham.

Sir Philip once admitted that he had been greatly influenced



Sir Philip Dawson: Austere intellectual approach.

by training in a carpenter's shop, with a resulting fascination in how things are put together, and in exposing all the joints. This background, coupled with an austere intellectual approach, explains much of his architecture.

It is not frivolous. Nor is it really fashionable. He is probably the modern British architect who most resembles Sir William Chambers, the eighteenth century British architect: no frills all brain.

Rate protest rally attracts 1,000

By A Staff Reporter

About 1,000 Lambeth ratepayers attended a rally on Clapham Common, London, yesterday to protest against their council's proposed rate increases.

Speakers from local ratepayers' organizations claimed that public pressure and the threat of legal action to surcharge and disqualify members of the controlling Labour group had already obliged it to make economies of more than £11m, reducing the proposed rate increase from 57 per cent to 37 per cent.

The speakers said that was not enough, and demanded an increase of no more than 30 per cent in the coming year, and a promise of no increase at all the year after.

Lambeth's Labour councillors meet to discuss the rate increase tonight.

Seating race: Crawley Council in West Sussex, has approved a rise in the borough's rate of 97 per cent from 27.5p to 34.5p in the pound which is one of the highest in the country.

One reason for the rate demand is the loss of the government's rate support grant because of the council's refusal to reduce public spending.

Labour drive to woo black electorate as Tories claim some quiet success

by Lucy Hodges

The Labour and Conservative parties are setting out to woo the black electorate. In the past 18 months both have been making friends and trying to persuade local parties to consider black candidates.

Their tactics differ. Labour is publicly trying to respond to black needs, reshaping its policies and lobbying constituencies systematically. The Conservatives are quietly inviting Asians to parties and helping them with their individual difficulties.

The Labour Party will shortly be approaching all its regional organizers to persuade them to take action. There are signs that Labour is worried about its poor past performance in this area and about the headway the Conservatives have made.

A confidential survey carried out recently for Labour's human rights and race relations subcommittee showed that only a quarter of all constituency Labour parties that replied to a questionnaire took any action at election time to get in touch with ethnic minorities. The picture is a dismal one, the committee's report

Sale of BBC shows earns £2m

By A Staff Reporter

A four-day screening of BBC television programmes for overseas buyers has resulted in sales totalling £2m, according to provisional figures released today.

The session attracted 142 buyers from 51 broadcasting organizations in 22 countries; four networks presented 100 hours of the latest BBC programmes and 600 cassettes were available for individual screening.

Drama and documentaries were among the best-sellers to Europe, including the *Caught on a Train*; the serials *Sons and Lovers*, *To Serve Them*, *All My Days* and *Forgive Our Foolish Ways*; the escape series *The Great Railway Journeys of the World*.

Mr Bryon Parkin, managing director of BBC Enterprises, said the figures were encouraging.

Oxford Union election

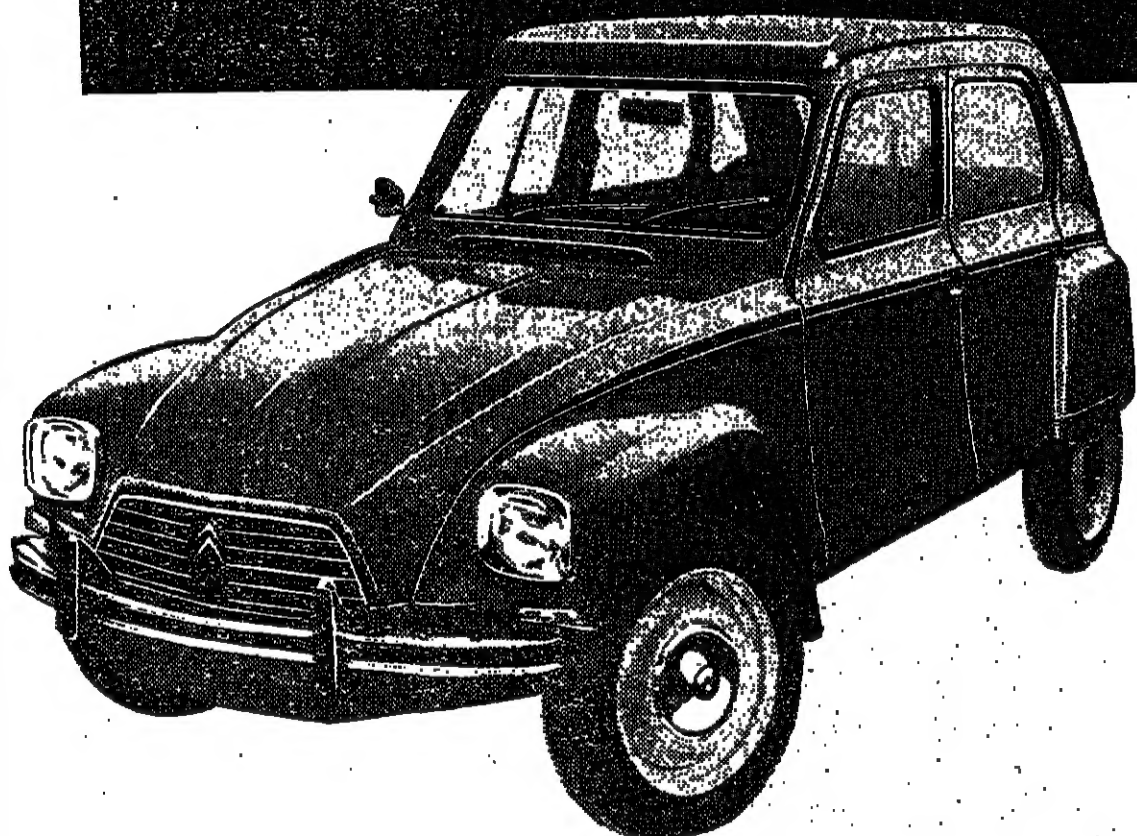
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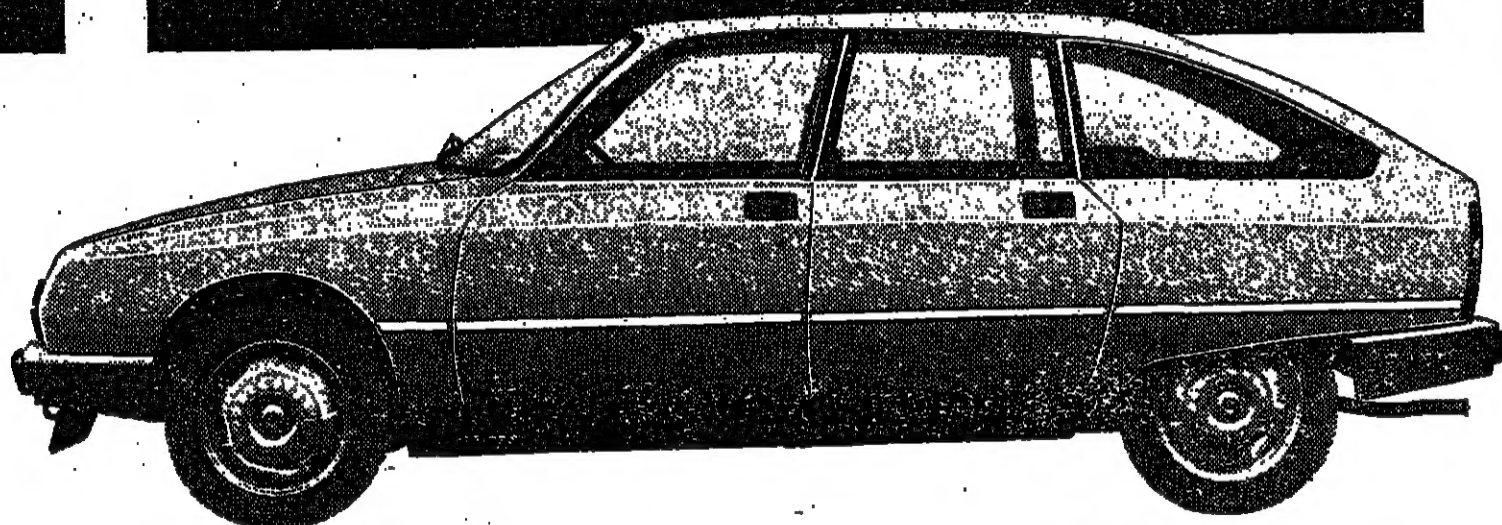
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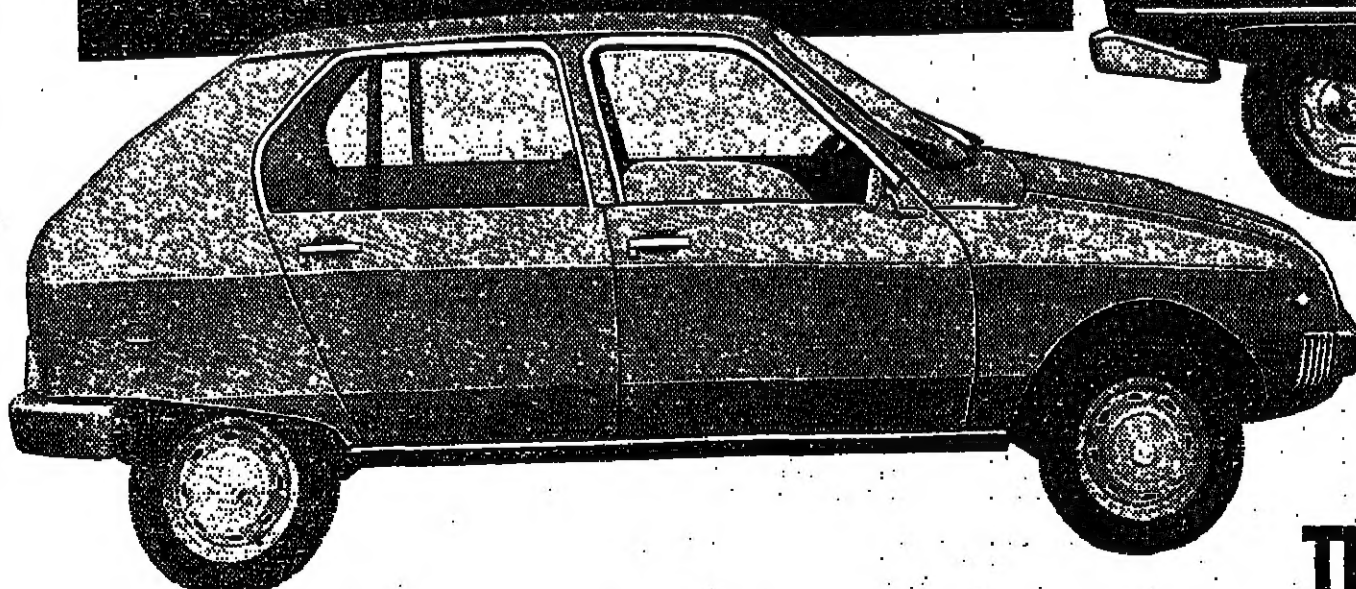
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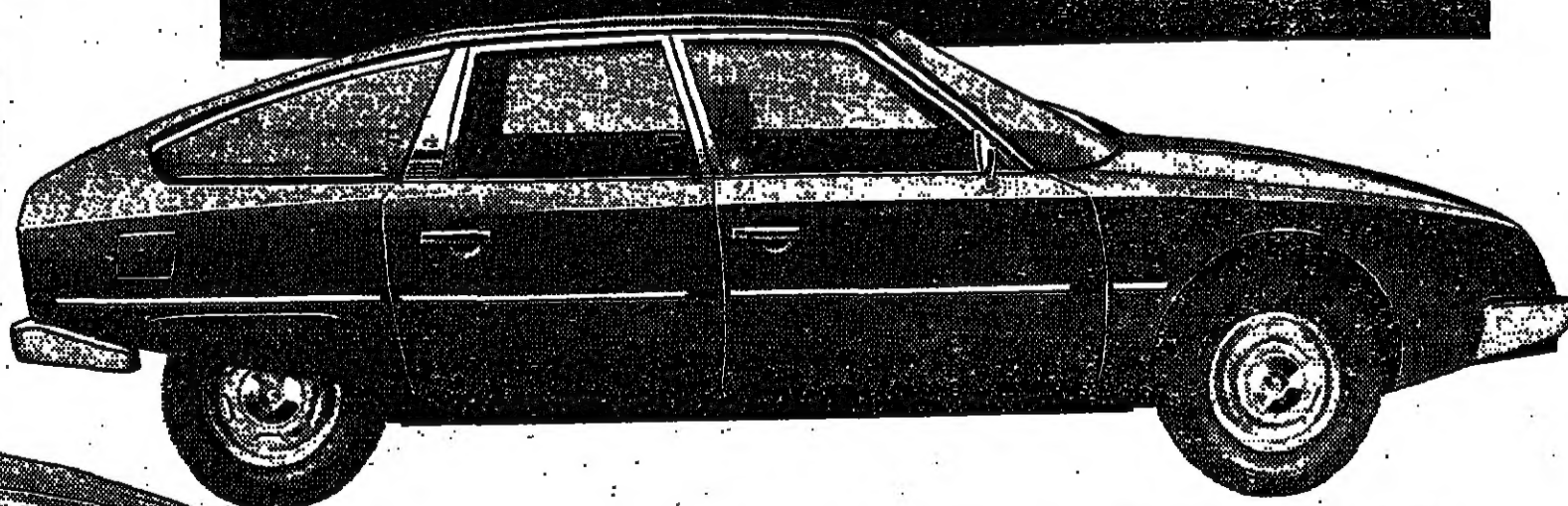
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Desperate Palestinian attempt to attack Israel by hang-glider

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, March 8

Palestinian guerrillas are resorting to increasingly unconventional methods of launching attacks inside Israel. Some of them have a Heath Robinson flavour despite the obvious deadly intent.

The new techniques are reminiscent of those resorted to by the Provisional IRA in the early 70s, when attempts were made to bomb targets from a helicopter carrying home-made bombs of high explosive stuffed into milk churns.

The most bizarre attack against Israel was foiled early yesterday after two Palestinians—one thought to be only 16 years old—attempted to cross the frontier from the hills of southern Lebanon using motorized hang-gliders equipped with explosives, guns and grenades.

The airborne mission ended in anti-climatic failure when the intrepid Arab aviators were separately discovered, exhausted and asleep. One was arrested by Israeli troops in western Galilee and the other inside south Lebanon by members of the militia headed by the renegade Major Saad Hadad.

Yesterday's attempted infiltration followed the raid last July when four Palestinians tried to cross the frontier in a hot air balloon. The four were killed after the balloon caught fire and crashed into the rugged south Lebanese countryside.

Israeli security chiefs believe that the experimental methods now being employed by the Palestinians are proof of the highly effective counter-measures in operation against possible attacks from Lebanon by land or sea.

After the raid, the chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitan, warned Israel that more airborne infiltration attempts could be expected. But he played down the significance of the new flying machines, pointing out that they could carry only one man and were unreliable, especially at night.

Photographs of the captured hang-gliders showed that both were of the type which can be constructed from kits available on the open market. They were equipped with a small motor, which in theory should have enabled the guerrillas to return after completing their attack.

As it was, the hopelessly exhausted Palestinians both fell asleep in houses where they

had forced entry after landing under cover of darkness. The man detained in south Lebanon was under the mistaken impression that he had crossed the frontier into Israel. A spokesman for Major Hadad later said that the Palestinian had planted a series of mines which he had carried on his glider, along with an AK47 rifle and some grenades.

The Palestinian arrested inside Israel told the family in an Arab village, from which he sought food, that he was on a suicide mission "to take hostages and to kill Israelis".

Sports-shop aircraft: The Palestinian "air force"—for that is what its propagandists have inevitably called it—consisted of just two hang-gliders, apparently bought through a sports wholesaler (Robert Fisk writes from Beirut).

The Iraqi-sponsored Arab Liberation Front (ALF), which has claimed responsibility for the raid, said the first glider—the one which actually crossed the Israeli frontier—weighed 170lb and carried a nine-horsepower engine with a speed of 37 miles an hour.

The second, which failed to reach Israel, was a larger machine with a 15-horsepower engine, a speed of 55 miles an hour and a weight of 190lb.

The ALF said that both gliders were loaded with an automatic rifle, a rocket-firing device, 210 grenades and a number of explosive charges. They gave the names of the two guerrillas as Jumaa Khalaf, aged 26, and Abdul Ham Haddad. It made no reference to a "Turk" being involved in the raid, but Mr Haddad's birthplace was given as Aleppo, the northern Syrian city which is only 35 miles from the Turkish frontier.

The hang-gliding mission was named after Ghassan Kafi, the Palestinian who died when the hot air balloon in which he was attempting to fly into Israel last summer crashed.

Although the hang-gliding method of attack is a novel tactic for the Palestinians, there are in fact many Palestinians in the more orthodox Arab air forces. The pilot who died when his Syrian MIG 21 jet was shot down over the Bekaa valley in Lebanon last month by Israeli jet fighters turned out to be a Palestinian. His photograph, name and details of his birth have been printed on posters and plastered around the bazaar in Damascus.

Opposition politicians detained in Pakistan

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad, March 8

A large number of arrests of opposition politicians, including Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the ex-Prime Minister, have been reported from different cities in Pakistan in the past 24 hours.

A senior government official today claimed that the arrests had no connexion with the hijacking nearly a week ago of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul where three hijackers are still holding 112 passengers and crew as hostages.

[Party sources said that Mr Bhutto's daughter, Miss Benazir Bhutto, had been arrested at the home of Begum Ashraf Abbasi, the former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, who was also detained. Reuters reports from Islamabad.]

Until late this evening there has been no official statement on the reported arrests; but political sources estimate that their number may be more than 50.

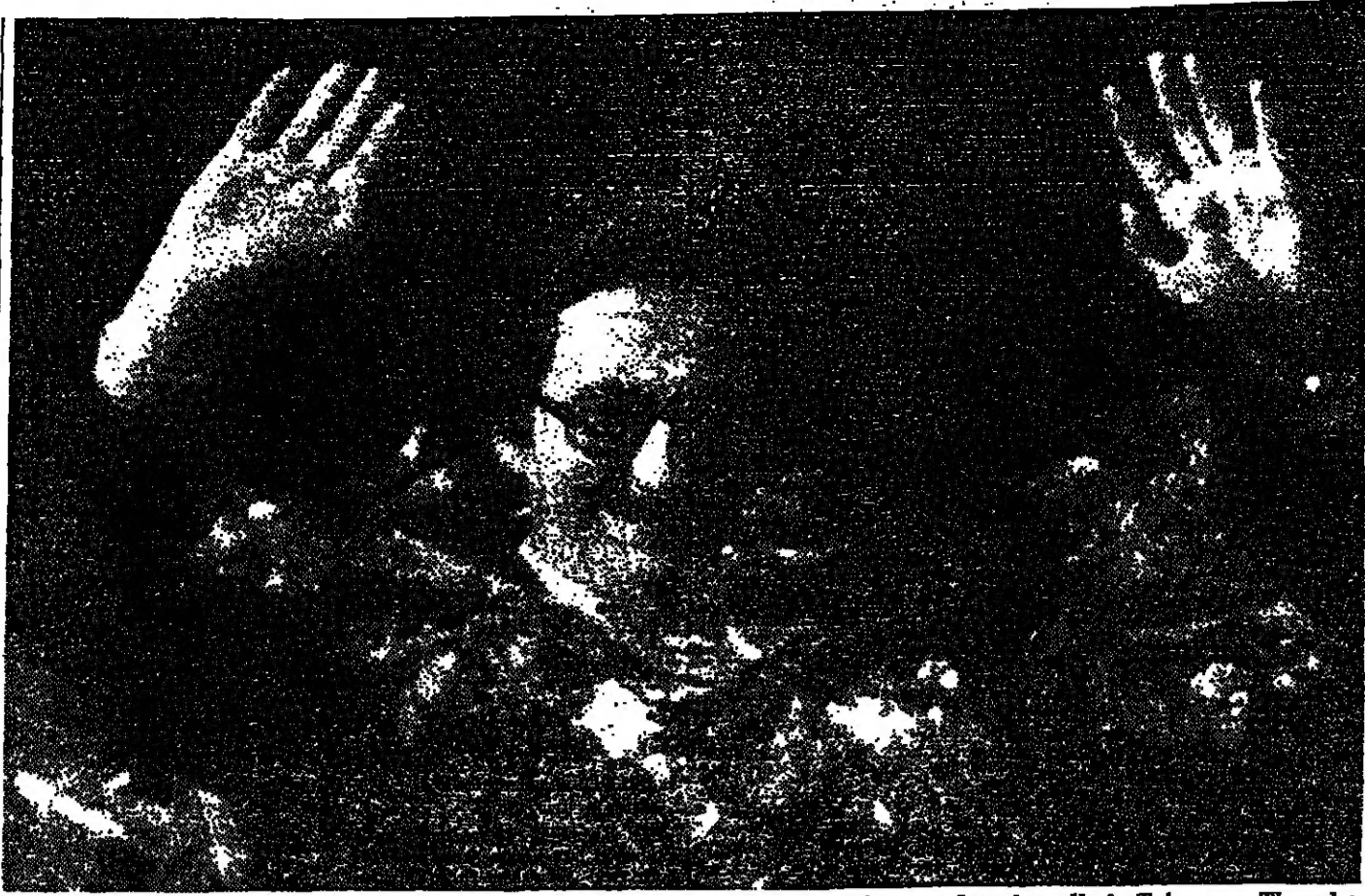
Among those arrested in Lahore were Mr Masdar Ali Khan, editor of the English language weekly, *Viewpoint*, and his two editorial assistants, Dr Mubashar Hasan, Mr Bhutto's Finance Minister and a former secretary-general of the Pakistan People's Party, Mr Rao Rashid, a former Bhutto aide, and Mr Shoaib Hashmi, son-in-law of Mr Faiz Ahmad Faiz, a well-known Pakistani poet and Lenin peace prize winner.

Most of those arrested are described as leftists and belong to the Pakistan People's Party (which has been disbanded under martial law).

The arrests come after a number of detainees since the beginning of the year.

Mrs Bhutto, as president of the People's Party founded by her husband, last month formed with eight other parties an alliance called Movement for Restoration of Democracy which demanded an end to martial law and general elections in three months.

Ironically, General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, is forming a new Cabinet tomorrow with larger civilian representation. General Zia considers the reconstruction of his Cabinet as a step towards associating men of integrity and Islamic thinking with his Government.



President Bani-Sadr wearing a garland of flowers presented to him by his followers after the rally in Tehran on Thursday.

Khalkhali call to try President for treason

From Tony Allaway Tehran, March 8

Iran's notorious former religious judge, Hojatoleslam Sadeq Khalkhali, today publicly demanded the trial of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr for treason following a violent political rally in Tehran on Thursday.

Amid a national furor over the violence, mainly directed against the President, even one of Mr Bani-Sadr's own clerical supporters accused him of "Megalomania".

Speaking in Parliament this morning, Hojatoleslam Khalkhali declared: "There is no doubt in my mind that the President himself has committed treason against the constitution and therefore he must be put on trial."

At one point in his speech the hojatoleslam, who resigned as a religious judge after allegations of ordering indiscriminate executions and torture, tore up a copy of the newspaper *Islamic Revolution*, which supports the President.

The copy in question had printed pictures of identity cards taken from Muslim fundamentalists arrested last Thursday, after a severe beating from supporters of the President, showing their mem-

bership of the revolutionary guards, security *Komites* and other organizations controlled by the country's hardline muslim factions.

Many of the cards were shown by the President to the huge crowd that had come to hear him speak at a rally to honour the memory of the late nationalist Prime Minister, Muhammad Mossadeq. Violence broke out after the President lost patience with the failure of the police to eject a crowd of disrupters and asked the public to arrest the troublemakers.

Hojatoleslam Khalkhali said today that by this act the President had shown himself to be guilty of "despotism... giving the order, being the judge, witness and so on." Although the feeling has never been reciprocated, the hojatoleslam has in the past been considered a supporter of the President, especially over the issue of the former American hostages.

Another recognised ally of the President, Hojatoleslam Muhammad Bani Kermani, accused the President today of indulging in a "childish game" that only served to weaken his own position. "Unfortunately you have become a megalomaniac and if you are not able to overcome this disease then

you and your country will be destroyed."

The last two days have been dominated by a cascade of statements over the issue, mostly against the President. Demonstrations have been reported in many places, including Qom, where newspapers reported a tense atmosphere following failed attempts by fundamentalists to force the bazaar to close.

The Interior Ministry issued an order declaring further demonstrations illegal. "Anyone engaged in such will be considered an enemy of Islam and the Islamic nation," it said.

The President himself has returned to the southern war zone to supervise the war effort. The country's religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, has refused any further meetings for a week.

Although no great lover of the President or the growing coalition of radical and nationalist groups that are surrounding him, the ayatollah has refused to join in the condemnation of the country's highest elected official.

Speaker's claim: The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament alleged today that supporters of the radical Mujahideen organi-

zation had occupied the governor's office in Lahijan, on the Caspian coast, and declared the city independent (Reuters reports from Tehran).

Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, a founder member of the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party, told *Tarbiyat* magazine: "Dirty groups that are fed from the Soviet Union have declared their independence, occupied the Governor's office and closed the schools of the city."

An Iraqi war communiqué broadcast by Baghdad radio on the second day against Iranian targets after Iran's rejection of peace proposals by Islamic nations (AP reports from Nicosia).

An Iraqi war communiqué broadcast by Baghdad radio on the second day against Iranian targets after Iran's rejection of peace proposals by Islamic nations (AP reports from Nicosia).

New peace move: A leading Palestinian representative will visit Tehran and Baghdad in the next few days for follow-up talks on Islamic attempts to end the war, according to Palestinian sources today (Reuters reports from Beirut).

His visits would precede a new series of visits to Iran and Iraq by an Islamic mediation committee.

In brief

American shot dead in Bogota

Bogota, March 8.—Colombian Trotskyist guerrillas have shot dead Mr Chester Allen Bitman, an American, aged 30, who worked for the Summer Institute of Linguistics, a religious organization. His body was found in a hijacked bus wrapped in a flag of the M19 (Movimiento April 19) guerrilla group, which was kidnapped here on January 19 by hooded gunmen, who demanded the closure of a institute.

Britons killed

Cavallion, southern France, March 8.—A British couple, holidaying and a Frenchman were killed when two cars crashed near here yesterday, police said. The Britons were named as Michael Frostick, aged 63, a last night, Denise, of Havendon Close, Gitchester, Sussex.

41 held in Jerusalem

Jerusalem, March 8.—At one of the worst clashes between ultra-orthodox Jews and Israeli police, a total of 41 of Jerusalem's religious zealots are under arrest, including Rabbi Uri Blau, spiritual leader of the extreme Neturai Kar sect.

Conductor dies

Amsterdam, March 8.—Kj Kondrasbin, Soviet-born conductor of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw orchestra, died last night of a heart attack at the age of 67, an official the orchestra said.

Arab bank to reopen

Tel Aviv, March 8.—The military Government in Gaza withdrew its objections to reopening the Palestine Bank under its original name. The Arab-owned bank ceased trading after the Six-Day War in 1967 when its assets were frozen.

Women arrested

Moscow, March 8.—Police arrested 11 women Pentecost lists, members of a Protestant religious sect, as they demonstrated outside the Lenin Library in central Moscow today. International Women's Day for the right to emigrate to the West.

Argentines released

Buenos Aires, March 8.—Six Argentine human rights campaigners arrested last week on charges of violating national security laws have been freed by a federal judge.

Match goes on with no sign of kidnap player

From Our Correspondent Madrid, March 8

One of Spain's most popular football players was still missing as his team took the field for a crucial game here today, in spite of the fact that officials of the Barcelona football club, for which he plays, were reported to have paid his kidnappers 100m pesetas (£529,000).

Barcelona's leading goal scorer, Enrique Castro, aged 31, known as "Quini" vanished a week ago in Barcelona after a match. Officials of the football club admitted later that they had received a recording of his voice and said arrangements had been made to pay the ransom.

Hopes that he might be released in time to play in today's match between Atletico de Madrid and Barcelona were dashed when the Barcelona team took the field.

Prisoners of conscience



Korea: Kim Tong Son

By Caroline Moorehead

After the assassination of President Park Chung Hee in the autumn of 1979 tight restrictions were imposed on newspapers and broadcasting.

The severest, Martial Law Regulation No 10, involved the submission of all news reports to the military censors.

The Journalists' Association of Korea protested to the military authorities that this form of censorship was being used to manipulate public opinion. They threatened to stop submitting articles for inspection and full martial law was declared.

Kim Tong Son, aged 37, editor of the journal of the Journalists' Association, was arrested and charged with "unauthorised publishing of printed material".

At a court martial on August 2, 1980, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment. A fellow member of the Journalists' Association was given a one-year sentence.

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Jews blamed for Poland's ills at Warsaw rally

Warsaw, March 8.—Between 1,000 and 1,500 people gathered here today in a nationalist, antisemitic demonstration to coincide with the anniversary of the student riots of March, 1968.

In another demonstration, a similar number of students and teachers met at Warsaw University to commemorate the riots and the students' demands in 1963 for more democracy and a freer press. At the time the Polish press blamed the riots on "Zionists".

A previously unknown group, the Grunwald Patriotic Union—named after the Polish victory in 1410 at Grunwald (Tannenberg)—over the Teutonic Knights, organized the nationalist demonstration. Although officially in memory of the victims of Stalinism, it was manifestly directly against today's student demonstration.

Informed sources said the new organization includes members of the Warsaw group of communist intellectuals, Warszawa 80; militants of a veterans' association; former members of the wartime non-communist Home Army; and Roman Catholics linked with the Government.

Speakers, who included Mr Bogdan Poręba, a film director, argued that the main hangmen during the Stalinist period in Poland were Jews and that this justified the 1968 "anti-Zionist" campaign during which thousands of Polish Jews were forced to emigrate.

To loud applause, speakers declared that the Solidarity free

trade union movement must be Polish only and suggested that the dissident group KOR was Zionist and anti-Polish.

Mr Jacek Kuron, the KOR leader, who was detained by police last week and warned that he faced possible charges of entering the nation, addressed the demonstrators in a packed auditorium at Warsaw University.

He said there had been many Jews in the party apparatus in the early years after the war but the notion of equating Jews with the national terror was just an expedient for scribbling disasters to alien forces.

He said the main difference between all previous popular protests in Poland and last summer's labour revolt was that the events of 1980 created grassroots democratic institutions.

But he warned his audience that a threat of Soviet military intervention still hung over Poland and he advised moderation.

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity union announced today that he is to meet General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, tomorrow. He issued a seven-point list of issues they would discuss.

Moscow warning: In a clear warning to Poland's independence, the new Government met today at the first Cabinet meeting of the new Government headed by Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo.

Diplomatic sources indicated that he tried to buy military secrets from a Spanish double agent. He had contact with an extremist organization, the Movement for the Autonomy and Independence of the Canary Islands, and he gathered confidential information on Spanish politicians and political parties.

Russian diplomat expelled from Spain for spying

From Harry Debelius Madrid, March 8

A Soviet diplomat made a hasty departure for Moscow this weekend after the Spanish Government denounced him as a spy and gave him 24 hours to get out of the country.

Mr Vladimir Illich Efremov, a vice-consul at the embassy in Madrid, was the seventh diplomat or Soviet government employee to be expelled from Spain for espionage activities since diplomatic relations between Madrid and Moscow were resumed in February, 1977.

His departure was preceded a few days ago by that of another Soviet spy who left hurriedly, but voluntarily, when his cover was blown, informed sources said. He was Mr Yuri Goloviatenko, a correspondent for the Soviet news agency NTA.

The expulsion of Mr Efremov was decided here last Friday at the first Cabinet meeting of the new Government headed by Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo.

Diplomatic sources indicated that he tried to buy military secrets from a Spanish double agent. He had contact with an extremist organization, the Movement for the Autonomy and Independence of the Canary Islands, and he gathered confidential information on Spanish politicians and political parties.

Leading article, page 13

Former Premier of Dominica on coup plot charge

From Peter Hazelhurst Bridgetown, March 8

Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, announced yesterday she had ordered the arrest of Patrick John, the former Premier, and Major Frederick Newton, the Defence Force Commander, for plotting a coup.

Others arrested included Mr Donald Joseph, former Director of Broadcasting and Information, and Corporal Howell Piper, the Prime Minister said in a broadcast monitored in Barbados.

Miss Charles said they would all be tried for planning a coup that she said was to have taken place on March 14. "I would hope that death would be the penalty; but I can't say that for sure," she added.

She declared a state of emergency on February 13 after a band of Rastafarians kidnapped Mr Edward Honeychurch, a farmer whose son, Lennox, is the chief government spokesman.

He is still being held by members of the religious cult.—AP.

Japanese to breed wild animals for the hunters

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, March 8

A club of more than 400,000 Japanese hunters plans to breed wild animals and birds in large numbers at special farms for the purpose of hunting, because the country's game population has been seriously depleted in recent years.

The Dainippon Hunting Association, one of the biggest clubs of its kind in Japan, has announced it will open its first experimental breeding farm on five hectares of land near Tokyo.

Club officials say they decided to breed wild game because the number of birds shot by the association's 400,000 members dropped by 1,576,000 to 7,426,000 in 1978.

In the same year the number of bears, weasels and other wild animals killed by hunters fell by 156,000 to 779,000. The association hopes to start with artificial breeding of 10,000 pheasants, 100 weasels and other small animals. The experimental station will also

import 100 Hungarian partridges from the United States.

We plan to breed them until the population swells. The birds and animals will be released in reserved hunting grounds in Yamanashi prefecture," an official said.

But the champions of wildlife protection are up in arms. "Hunters are going too far when they begin to breed animals with the purpose of shooting them down later for amusement," Mr Masayoshi Kimura, a supporter of Japan Animal Welfare Society says.

The issue of wildlife conservation has become such a sensitive subject recently that the entire Cabinet decided to turn down an invitation to participate in the Imperial Household's traditional annual duck-hunt this year.

A recent public outcry also forced the Government to drop a plan to destroy thousands of protected pigeons, which have settled in the eaves and rafters of the famous Seioji temple in Asakusa, in Tokyo.

Zimbabwe gives warning to whites after brawl

From Stephen Taylor Salisbury, March 8

The Zimbabwe Government yesterday issued a warning to whites who it said had failed to adjust to the new circumstances in the country. This came after an incident in which a multiracial group of delegates to an education conference were harassed and chased from a Salisbury nightclub.

The group attempted to leave "Samantha's", a popular night spot, after they were jeered and threatened by a gang of whites believed to be soldiers and airmen. Two delegates, an Australian and a Botswanian, were beaten up outside and

stones were hurled at the others as they fled.

Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, Minister of Information and Tourism, yesterday deplored the harassment of "distinguished guests". He said: "The Government will soon take stern measures to stamp out organized groups of white thugs and hoodlums who are responsible for numerous assaults and unruly behaviour at hotels, nightclubs and restaurants in Salisbury and Bulawayo."

"Whites who think they are still living in Rhodesia will soon find their way into Zimbabwe's jails."

US 'realism' heartens South Africans

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, March 8

The South African Government appears to have shrugged off Friday night's United Nations General Assembly vote for comprehensive sanctions against it.

Sources in Pretoria are convinced that the western powers, having abstained on Friday, will use their veto if a sanctions resolution is put before the Security Council next month.

The unwavering line adopted by South Africa at the conference on Namibia in Geneva last January was largely based on the belief that the five western members of the contact group (Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada) wanted to avoid a commitment to sanctions at almost any cost.

African officials now believe this view has been confirmed.

The South Africans are generally satisfied with the events of last week.

They have also been heartened by the "realistic" position adopted by President Reagan towards South Africa in a television interview last week. That interview also strengthened South African hopes that American policy will be more sympathetic than it was under President Carter.

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Butter deal is held up by Italian objection

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, March 8

New arrangements for the export of New Zealand butter to Britain, as well as other agricultural measures agreed in principle by the EEC last month, still have not been put into effect because of continuing Italian opposition.

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Brezhnev letter to Herr Schmidt viewed as attempt to sway Americans during Genscher visit

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, March 8

A letter from President Brezhnev to Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, has arrived in Bonn just before the start of important consultations between the United States and its key European ally.

The Germans have declined to disclose its contents but it is believed to be about Mr Brezhnev's declarations at the Soviet Party Congress and the talks involving Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign Minister, which begin in Washington tomorrow.

It seems that the Soviet leader hoped to use the West Germans' much greater sensitivity towards the Soviet Union as a lever with President Reagan's Administration.

East-West relations and arms controls, which took an important place in Mr Brezhnev's recent speech, will be central issues in the Genscher's discussions with President Reagan, Mr Alexander Haig the Secretary of State, and other American leaders.

The Germans know their views go against the much tougher, more self-sufficient public mood in America at present and that they diverge from what little is so far known of the Administration's own position.

Over the next two months the Germans will be trying hard to influence and moderate the new American foreign policy which is still being shaped on these and other matters.

With West Germany's exposed position on the East-West border, its heavy investment in defence, its strategic dependence on the United States and its increasing critical left wing, much is at stake. Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economic Minister, is already in Washington, Herr Hans Apel, the Defence Minister, goes later this month. Herr Schmidt pays a visit to May.

Herr Genscher will press hard for restoration of the military balance in Europe, at present tipped strongly in favour of the Soviet Union by its new SS20 missiles. But he will give a strong warning against any attempt by the United States to aim for superiority, firmly believing that any imbalance creates insecurity.



Herr Genscher: Seeks return of the military balance.

The Germans have firmly rejected Mr Brezhnev's proposal of a freeze on medium range nuclear weapons. Euro-missiles—because it would perpetuate the East's huge advantage. But he will press for further talks on balanced reduction of these weapons.

The impression here is that the United States is scarcely interested in negotiations until it has actually caught up with the Soviet Union. But for the Germans, whose own cities are threatened, it is vital that these numbers be reduced to the lowest possible level.

Herr Genscher is acting under strong domestic pressure, particularly from within Herr Schmidt's Social Democratic Party (SDP) many of whom would no longer support the deployment of new Nato Euro-missiles unless accompanied by negotiations.

The Minister can expect hard questioning about this increasing resistance to the government's defence policy and the vague mood of pacifism among the German left.

Officials say he will point to last October's election results and a recent opinion poll which shows that most people are firmly behind the government. The protests, although vocal, come only from a small minority.

Nevertheless senior Foreign Ministry officials are so concerned about the new scepticism that they feel compelled to go about the country like

politicians convincing people how vital the policy is for West Germany's security.

Herr Genscher (and this is where Mr Brezhnev's letter probably comes in) is expected to ask President Reagan to take up the Soviet leader's offer of a summit meeting.

While the Americans do appear inclined to teach the Soviets a lesson after Afghanistan, the Germans are anxious to get East-West relations back to normal. Although the word détente is no longer heard so frequently here, the security of Berlin, links with East Germany, East-West cooperation and the defusing of tensions are extremely important to Bonn.

Herr Genscher is braced for possible demands by the United States that West Germany should take part in a military presence in the Gulf. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's declarations of willingness were greeted with very grins and the comment "It is all right for her to say things like that."

For the Germans it would create very difficult political problems. They can do a lot, they feel, to support efforts in central Europe should the United States have to intervene in a crisis.

Huge sales of arms to Saudi Arabia, which the Government felt could be an important contribution, are in doubt because of opposition within the SDP. But West Germany will continue to provide substantial aid, trade and diplomatic support to endangered countries in the "arc of crisis" around Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan and the Gulf states.

Herr Genscher goes to Washington with some optimism. The German leaders believe the unpredictability and "amateurishness" of the Carter years are over and are delighted that President Reagan is consulting his allies and not rushing into policy decisions.

They are also pleased at the appointment of Mr Haig who, unlike many Washington politicians, understands the problems and complexities of Europe. But they have no illusions that there are no new agreements between Washington and Bonn.



Mitterrand leaving East Germany on Thursday after visiting the former Nazi labour camp from which he escaped

Mitterrand derides the 'outgoing' President

From Charles Hargrove
Besenau, March 8

M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate, plunged this weekend into the presidential election campaign with undiminished vim and vigour, astonishing in a man of 64 with three unsuccessful attempts to win the presidency behind him.

He opened his offensive against President Giscard d'Estaing in Besenau, north of Paris, one of the many large towns which the Left wrested from the majority in the 1977 municipal elections. At a public meeting, the first of 24, he will hold throughout the country between now and polling day, he pulled no punches.

He spoke for one and a half hours before an audience of 3,000 or so, most of them Socialist sympathisers, gathered in a big tent in the town centre. Frequently he was interrupted by rhythmic shouts of "Mitterrand—President". Giving a dazzling display of all the resources of his oratory, grave, ironic, poetic, even playful, candid and confidential, he switched from indignation to pathos—with occasional lapses into barbs. And he concentrated all his attacks on what he called "the outgoing candidate".

Sublimely he ignored M Georges Marchais and the Communists, except indirectly when he pointed out that he was "a free man, and no one has any ties on me". No force in the world, he declared, apart from his convictions and his love for his country, would weigh on his decisions when he had the responsibility of running France.

On May 10, the choice would be between the candidate of the Right, and the Socialist candidate, he emphasized: between a "broken line" and the Socialist Party line. "We are, and we shall be more and more in coming weeks, the left."

He took M Giscard d'Estaing to task for insisting, as he did in his television broadcast a week ago, that a victory of the Left would spell disaster for the country. "But we have disorder now, with 1,700,000 unemployed," he exclaimed. "For the outgoing candidate, disorder begins when he runs the risk of losing his job. Technocrats often speak of the need for mobility of labour. That is all I wish for him," he added to gales of laughter.

He had also heard the "outgoing candidate" say he wished to bring all Frenchmen together and unite the country—"but he doesn't do so by dividing them in two, with the good on one side and the bad on the other," said Napoleon III had once said, Mitterrand had once said,

let the bad tremble, and the good be reassured. "Before announcing his candidature, he should have submitted his record—and then he should have withdrawn from the stage on tiptoe, hoping he might be forgotten," the Socialist leader added. "Unfortunately, if he is re-elected, it will spell three million unemployed for France. Speeches can create an illusion, but the reality is there. Frenchmen will refuse to perpetuate seven years of misery."

Mitterrand also singled out for a display of righteous indignation the "President-candidate's" onslaught against political parties in his article a week ago in *Le Figaro* magazine. "Rarely has an elected head of state," he declared, "indulged in such an aggression against one of the country's institutions, solemnly recognized

by the Constitution of 1958. "I am proud to have been chosen by the Socialist Party to be their candidate," he continued, "and the role of the Socialist candidate is to speak for the masses of this country; and when elected, to speak for all Frenchmen and women." M Giscard d'Estaing had founded his own party, but he had lost it. And now he was going about looking for it with a lantern, like Marshal de Soubise looking for his army.

The Giscardian UDF party felt rather orphaned these days. Mitterrand went on. It was trying in another place (it had a congress in Paris on Saturday) to work out how it could support its candidate, without, in deference to his express wish, appearing to act as his party.

Unemployment will clearly be the central theme of this election campaign. A week after M Giscard d'Estaing had done the same, Mitterrand gave it much play in his speech. He outlined once again his six-point plan to increase the number of jobs, including reflation of the economy, reduction in working hours, recruiting 200,000 extra civil servants, and, more surprisingly, encouraging medium and small enterprises. Initiative must be rewarded, he emphasized, and those who created jobs must enjoy the fruits of their efforts.

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Deputy chief of Malta opposition to be charged

From Our Correspondent
Valletta, March 8

Dr Guido de Marco, the deputy leader of Malta's opposition Nationalist Party, is to be charged with making false public accusations against Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, and leading police officers.

The action follows a speech he made last Sunday in which he referred to a case against some journalists charged in connexion with the throwing of a bomb at a group of industrialists.

The editor and a reporter of the independent *Times of Malta* and the editor and a reporter of the Nationalist Party newspaper, *In Nazzjon Tagħna*, have been accused of spreading false information and hindering police investigations.

Dr de Marco is to be charged before Dr Anton Depasquale, a magistrate, tomorrow with having in public falsely accused Mr Mintoff (as Minister for the Police), Dr Lawrence Pullicino, Police Commissioner, and Inspectors Gaetano Pace and Angelo Farrugia of "bad acts in administration of Government".

The charge alleges that his words had wrongly suggested that the arrest of the journalists was a threat against the freedom of the press and that he wrongly maintained that democracy and freedom was also threatened.

The government Department of Information said that steps were being taken against the *Times of Malta* and *In Nazzjon Tagħna* for publishing the de Marco speech.

Last Sunday Dr de Marco, after referring to the bomb incident and its coverage in newspapers, said the police had taken the editor and reporter of *In Nazzjon Tagħna* to police headquarters in the middle of the night. He added he could not understand why it had to be done at night.

Police later arrested the editor and a reporter of the *Times of Malta*, he said, not because they had thrown the bomb, but because they had published what reliable sources had seen and reported on the free press would not be intimidated or destroyed by such police tactics as arresting men in the middle of the night when they could be detained by day.

This morning the Nationalist weekly, *Il-Mument*, carried a statement by the Nationalist parliamentary group under a headline "Solidarity With de Marco".

The statement said the group was meeting today to study the implications of the steps taken by police against Dr de Marco.

"Measures such as these will not prevent the Nationalist parliamentary group from further expressing itself on anything it considers is carried out abusively and that must be explained to the public," it said. "Nothing can succeed in muzzle the Nationalist Members of Parliament."

Athenians still fleeing from earth tremors

Athens, March 8.—Athenians refused to accept assurances from seismologists and government officials yesterday that the worst of the earthquakes was over. Instead, they flocked to the countryside by the thousands.

More than 100 tremors shook the city during the weekend, many of them registering up to 5.7 on the Richter Scale. The strongest struck at 1.35 pm yesterday and was followed, minutes later, by a 5.2 strength tremor.

More than 100,000 vehicles have left Athens since yesterday morning. Although many families had planned to leave the capital to enjoy the Mardi Gras carnival weekend in the country, thousands of others fled in a panic.

All the tremors were centred in the Gulf of Corinth, 40 miles west of Athens, where the first strong earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter Scale, hit the area on February 24, killing 18 people and causing serious damage.

The Seismological Institute said the tremors showed a decline in number and intensity and that aftershocks will continue for several weeks, but are unlikely to cause serious damage to houses and offices.

—UPI.

Corsican attacks

Montpellier, France, March 8.—Corsican nationalists claimed responsibility for six bomb explosions last night that slightly injured six people and caused extensive damage to banks and an information centre here last night.

Admiral says navy will assist Nato by ensuring Mediterranean stays a zone of stability

Italy shoulders peacekeeping task

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 8

Admiral Giovanni Torrisi, chief of the defence staff, rules out any possibility of Italy taking on a rapid deployment force of the kind Mrs Thatcher talked about with President Reagan for policing the Gulf. Instead he sees a more subtle role for Italy which will give the Navy plenty to do in the Mediterranean.

"We are not just discovering the Mediterranean," he says to the view that Italy is devising a new approach to the area. Italian interest in the Mediterranean has been growing for some months as a matter of policy.

Last autumn's agreement guaranteeing Malta's security is normally taken to be one of the most convincing proofs of Italian intentions. So are Italian efforts in foreign policy to remain on the best possible terms with countries which supply a large part of Italy's energy requirements.

About 60 per cent of fuel imports come from the Mediterranean and 85 per cent of Italy's imports of oil and gas come from the area.

Admiral Torrisi accepts the importance of the Mediterranean to Italy as a fact of life and also sees it as a possible zone of conflict because of the divisions among the 300 million people who live around its shores.

Some, he says, belong to Nato, others are close to the Warsaw Pact while others are former colonies with a strongly nationalistic spirit and sudden wealth. But he does not see current international tensions taking the form of a head-on confrontation between the Nato alliance and Russia.

"Nato can concern itself with events elsewhere, such as the problem of the Gulf and the invasion of Afghanistan because the policy of the two super-powers seems now to be that of seeking weak points where they can make themselves felt."

"It is in this context, where a conflict need not necessarily be of catastrophic proportions but remain localized, that the Mediterranean could easily be the scene of an outbreak because of its instability. Italian interests are to keep the situation as stable as possible."

As part of Italy's obligations to Nato he sees one of Italy's tasks as trying to make up for the absence of about a third of the American sixth fleet.

There was no truth in press reports that Naples was being considered as the logistical base for the projected rapid deployment force, "nothing so far has changed at all in the normal routine that we have followed for years... the Americans have not asked, not even bilaterally, for a reinforcement of existing logistical support, and I do not see change."

"They already have more or less the support they need and it would be difficult to have more."

Italian capability would not be sufficient to take the navy outside the Mediterranean area. "When they ask us why we do not want to participate in the Gulf project, it is because the few ships we have use more in the Mediterranean so that we have as strong a presence as possible within the framework of the alliance."

Apart from obligations arising from the alliance, a specific policy was necessary to attempt to keep the Mediterranean stable.

"Many countries see in Italy a country with an advanced technology, a country which is not like a superpower which, when it arrives, behaves as a bull in a china shop, but a country with no intention to dominate," the admiral says.

"It has simply this concept of penetration, to bring a certain type of culture, its technology, the capacity of its people into a world which certainly needs these things—and above all I mean countries on the shores of the Mediterranean."

The military version of this policy is to cultivate relations by visits and offers of facilities for training. About 30 per cent of the pupils at the Livorno Military Academy are foreigners, many from Mediterranean countries.

The admiral feels, and he has discussed it with the Americans, that activities aimed at stabilizing a particular and potentially dangerous zone fit into the aim of the alliance.

He said in Bonn yesterday that the 1800 Leopard 2 tanks, 322 Tornado fighters and six multipurpose frigates, will be provided for the forces as scheduled but orders for new arms systems will be postponed or cancelled altogether.

The delay or cancellations of these orders will reduce the shortfall of DM2,300m (about £489m) for defence purposes for 1982-84 to about DM1,000m.

How the defence deficit will be met is anyone's guess. Herr Hans Marthofer, the Finance Minister, yesterday repeated his refusal to solve the financial

problems of the forces by tax increases. The shortfall in the present five-year plan was put much higher by Herr Manfred Wörner, the opposition's defence expert.

Herr Wörner said there was a gap between the commitments of the Bundeswehr and the funds available for meeting them: the forces would not be in a position to fulfil their role in the alliance or to meet their task of defending the country.

This morning the Nationalist weekly, *Il-Mument*, carried a statement by the Nationalist parliamentary group under a headline "Solidarity With de Marco".

The statement said the group was meeting today to study the implications of the steps taken by police against Dr de Marco.

"Measures such as these will not prevent the Nationalist parliamentary group from further expressing itself on anything it considers is carried out abusively and that must be explained to the public," it said. "Nothing can succeed in muzzle the Nationalist Members of Parliament."

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West Germany faces arms shortage

From Gertel Spitzer
Berlin, March 8

West Germany's defence spending is severely handicapped by inflation, world prices and fluctuating rates of exchange, according to Herr Hans Apel, the Defence Minister, who met military commanders for a three-day conference.

He said in Bonn yesterday that the 1800 Leopard 2 tanks, 322 Tornado fighters and six multipurpose frigates, will be provided for the forces as scheduled but orders for new arms systems will be postponed or cancelled altogether.

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Foreign Minister defends French role in Africa

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 8

There was a sort of end of term atmosphere about the luncheon the French diplomatic press gave on Friday for M Jean Francois-Poncet, the Foreign Minister.

He is approaching the end of his time at the Quai d'Orsay and was taking stock of his performance during his two years there, with the satisfaction, he said, of a mission accomplished.

The voice of France was heard in the world, thanks to the international standing of President Giscard d'Estaing, and its vocation to defend peace, uphold human rights, promote the construction of Europe, and demonstrate French solidarity with Africa had been fulfilled, within the framework of the independence of French foreign policy. That last point was one on which he laid particular emphasis.

Britain was not mentioned during the question and answer session and it showed how much things have changed since "the English affair," as it is called here, poisoned relations between the two countries, and threatened the European Community with disruption.

But the Foreign Minister poured a good deal of cold water on Mrs Thatcher's initiative in favour of a multinational peace-keeping force in the

Gulf. "The issue was not raised in the course of my talks in Washington," he emphasized. "And there is no question of extending the field of responsibility of Nato to the Gulf, or of setting up another Nato there."

"The Gulf States have said plainly that the defence of the area was a matter for the State Senate." Free circulation in the Strait of Hormuz was essential to world peace. France had sent naval units to the area, and that was that.

He insisted on the importance of the European initiative for peace settlement in the Middle East. This was not directed against the Camp David agreement, but "parallel to it."

France insisted on Israel's right to recognition and security; and to the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination. "The two objectives are not contradictory but complementary," he said.

He drew a nice diplomatic distinction between the absence of bilateral differences between France and Libya, and the existence of differences between them over Chad. The standpoint of France was that expressed by the Lagos conference on Libyan intervention.

French policy in Africa was not based on military intervention but on development, he said hotly in reply to a question on whether France had not intervened in Chad because it



M Francois-Poncet: Sense of a mission fulfilled.

did not have adequate forces to do so.

"France means to respect Africa, not to abandon it," he said. "France did more than respect the sovereignty of the African states, it also defended it when it was threatened." In Chad, France had been asked to withdraw, and had done so.

He denied strenuously that President Giscard d'Estaing had ever said Poland was part of the Soviet block. He had referred to the country's geographical position. French policy had been clearly summed

up by the President's phrase in a recent television interview that "Poland must be allowed to live".

It was greatly to be wished that there should be neither direct intervention in Poland, nor any pressure on it from outside.

No, there were no plans for Mr Lech Walasa, the leader of the independent trade union movement, Solidarity, to be received by the President or the Quai d'Orsay.

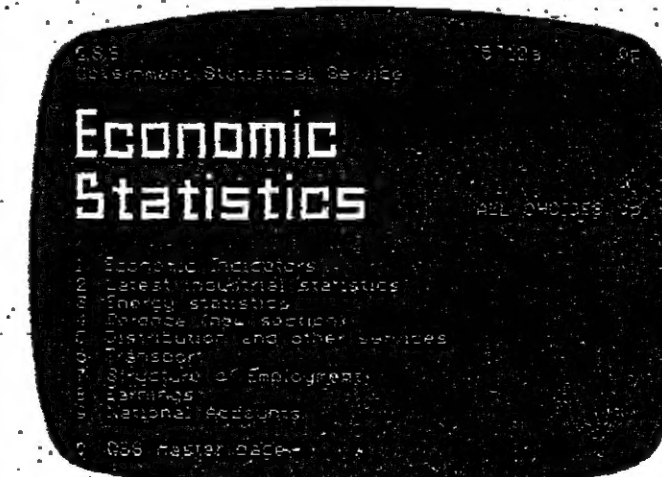
He said relations between the French Government and the Reagan Administration had begun well.

France was happy to see a strong and stable United States. And the United States showed that it was ready to take into consideration the views and interests of the Europeans. The independent policy of France was understood and appreciated.

Asked by a Japanese correspondent what the special ministerial committee on Japanese exports was up to, M Francois-Poncet replied that "France has great consideration for Japan, for its role in the world, and its economic success."

But, he added, the concentration of Japanese exports in some sectors could prove a threat to the European economy. France has no intention of allowing this to develop unchecked.

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Football

Tired Ipswich deserve acclaim for salvaging replay

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent
Nottingham Forest 3 Ipswich 1
Whether Nottingham Forest did so well to recover from two absurd goals or Ipswich Town deserved acclaim for salvaging a replay after hopes of the "double" were dashed, the City ground in a spell of captivated excitement. Ipswich had returned from their triumph in the FA Cup quarter-final to find the City ground in a spell of captivated excitement. Ipswich had returned from their triumph in the FA Cup quarter-final to find the City ground in a spell of captivated excitement.

minutes before Francis again positioned for the highest individual prize. Muhren might have scored at the end of one sweeping, field-length movement and soon regretted his mistake. Francis always raised the crowd's expectation of the unusual, indeed they presumed he would succeed as Butcher went across to intercept him almost on the touchline. He could not believe it. Butcher said later: "I had him, but he wasn't there." Francis ran towards a battery of photographers, pulled the ball back, sold them the goal and Walsh knocked the ball in.

Although Mills had to be withdrawn into the right back position vacated by Anderson, Forest's midfield still governed much of a second half that was absorbing without being as compelling as the first. Only five minutes had gone when Points, an effective substitute on the right side, rammed a low centre that Walsh blocked with his arm. Robertson did not have to send Cooper the wrong way with the penalty, the goalkeeper had already chosen the other side.

With nine minutes to go Forest were in a strong position. Mr. Forest's first goal was a marked position and the Dutchman attempted a shot without much hope of satisfaction. Burns and Mills gave it more attention than it deserved and a deflection from the confused Shilton, who had to add impetus to his dive but turned in the air to see the ball curl into the post. Shilton could not remember so many "freakish" goals, all in his own net, but they made this the one of the most extraordinary of recent years.

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Powerful was a tie on which Power left mar

By Tom German

Manchester City 2 Everton 2
The tie expected the niceties to overshadow unflinching commitment, nor did they. It was hard and raw, often scrappy, as seen as that moment in court before sentence is pronounced, as unpredictable as a feminine response, yet an FA Cup quarter-final round tie from the mould of the old days, full of breathless action and suspense.

A late goal, when hope was subsiding, refocused Manchester City's sights on a place in the semi-finals in what, for them, has been a remarkable season. They deserved another chance. Like Everton, they have come to inject a lot of effort in the air and in the first half tempered it with some searching moves against the Merseysiders' right flank, usually propelled by Power, which were as well fashioned as anything in the match.

Mackenzie strode away to strike Everton's last shot, one of them and no doubt City felt they had done enough to be in front when Everton scored three minutes after half time. Young Caton, City's strapping central defender, and Varadi, slightly built but quick and elusive as a runner, were the central figures in both Everton's goals.

This time, Varadi lured Caton over towards the right corner flag, where he was waiting for the ball. He gave him a yard in which to put over a centre which O'Keefe headed on to Easton, unmarked and unstoppable. Manchester's response was immediate, leading to a dramatic final flourish to a half littered with stray passes and free kicks. Again the intrusion came along the left from where

Measures of success and failure: one finger points the way out for Everton's Ratcliffe; two for Walsh's victory sign, and three for Robson trophy treble chance.

Measures of success and failure: one finger points the way out for Everton's Ratcliffe; two for Walsh's victory sign, and three for Robson trophy treble chance.

Pugnacious quality of Villa will keep leaders extended

By Norman Fox

Having fostered so well on the excitement of Ipswich Town's FA Cup draw at Nottingham, Villa would have appeared impudent to mention in the same breath that within that absorbing performance there were some hints that their designs on the "double" were endangered by doubts about endurance. If there is really Aston Villa will find it out.

The fitness of Gates, who has a bruised leg, and Forest will be without Anderson who has a dislocated shoulder. Ipswich still have a considerable advantage over Villa on goal difference, and that could be decisive. They have scored 14 in their last four games whereas Villa's victories have been less conclusive, at least judging by the scorers. Even so, Sunderland, beaten 2-1 at Roker Park on Saturday, were impressed with the way Villa continued to press forward after taking an early

lead. This pugnacious quality in Villa's outlook is likely to keep Ipswich extended at a time of particularly exacting matches. Villa have been in the lead for a long time, but they have not broken his leg but strained ligaments.

Wolverhampton Wanderers will return to league business next Saturday realizing that the reawakening of Leicester City, which was probably induced by an embarrassing cup defeat by Exeter City, has pulled them into the relegation vortex. They have two

Bailey's achievement

By David Powell

Charlton Athletic 1 Barnsley 1
With Charlton Athletic's financial resources earmarked for the development of young players and the construction of England's first all-seater football stadium, Mike Bailey, the club's manager, is nearing the completion of an unusual achievement: Charlton's main career leaders of the third division before Thursday's match had not yet paid out any money in transfer fees to strengthen his squad.

Apart from Navoy, who arrived at the Valley on a free transfer, Charlton have reaped as much the same players as the ones who have been sold. The second Division last season. By way of contrast, Barnsley included players on Saturday for whom they recently paid a total of £115,000 to intensify their promotion challenge. Barnsley, who have not yet started his professional career, looked menacing enough to suggest that Norman Hunter, Barnsley's manager, might have been a little signed in midweek from Brighton, would have scored had it not been for the goalkeeping of Jones.

Certainly both teams appeared worthy of promotion but Hunter's tactical expertise and judgment may yet need to pass a stiff examination if Barnsley are to join Charlton in a higher grade next season. While Mike Bailey's team is unlikely to need major surgery for the closing programme, the former Leeds United player will need to consider accommodating

both Lester and Campbell, who both under suspension of Saturday. There is also the possibility that Charlton's leading scorer with 16 goals, may sign for Leicester City before Thursday's transfer deadline and he was sufficiently impressive at the Valley to demonstrate how hard he would be to replace.

The hallelujah chorus has lost even its cup glory

By Clive White

Tottenham 2 Exeter 0
Nothing kills a conversation more than when two sides are in complete agreement. When the two sides of a second division game agreed that the rate score was the goals that beat a plucky but uninspired third division side—and both managers agreed that the game was a lot more than a dull affair—talk about other than the weather.

Even that was a dull topic at White Hart Lane on Saturday—damp and grey, like the football. The crowd of 40,000 had expected more of an FA Cup quarter-final with good basic ingredients. But though the outcome was a foregone conclusion, the manager, said, did not let the game pass them by, they failed to reach the attacking heights which would have broken Exeter's defence. The game was a lot more than a dull affair—talk about other than the weather.

Encouragement for Rangers

By Vince Wright

Blackburn 1 QPR 1
Queens Park Rangers, who were a trifle unlucky not to take points at the end of the first half, must have been the most unpopular person in Shepherd's Bush when they refused Rangers a penalty eight minutes from the end. Blackburn's goalkeeper, Arnold, appeared to send Flanagan crashing to the ground after the striker had put the ball into the net. The linesman nearest the incident reacted immediately, but Mr. Currie remarkably saw no offence.

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Celtic make hard work of eliminating part-timers

By Iain Mackenzie

Celtic 2 East Stirling 0
A rainbow arced down the middle of Celtic Park, a Glasgow Celtic, during the first half of this Scottish Cup fifth round tie, East Stirlingshire, in the last fight for only the third time in their history, hoped that in their centenary season there might be something for them at the end of the rainbow.

For the part-timers from Falkirk, fighting to avoid relegation to the lowest league, there was only honour in defeat, against a Celtic side which, yesterday, accepted, is gradually returning to something like the form of the great days of the 60s and 70s. They were only 10 behind at the interval but the difference in class was almost embarrassing. Otherwise the crowd of just under 20,000 in growing frustration as Celtic, capable of scoring half a dozen against such inferior opposition, had unlimited possession, space enough for four teams and only one goal after 70 minutes. That arrived after 25 minutes, and the work of the Provan did the early grafting. McGrath took over and Provan continued to slip the ball to Connor, who was in the goal.

Wolves must beware the red badge of courage

By Stuart Jones

Middlesbrough 1 Wolverhampton 1
With his shoes deep in the Accrington Park mud, the captain of the Newcastle Brown Band was in trouble. In front of a full house a puff of wind caught his moustache and he was obliged to turn round to see the crowd. It was a side effect of a potentially embarrassing moment on his big day. Middlesbrough's captain, who usually shadowed Francis, was unable to clear. Francis followed in his shot, yet Ipswich's composure after that crucial blow was a credit to their confidence. The game's most bewitching team football came from them in the

noon when Ashcroft needed to be dominant in the air, this was it. He was punished only once, though, in the eighth minute. Palmer's shot was deflected to Eves and his chip gave Gray the chance to put Wolves ahead.

For once a side could not be blamed for pumping him crosses into the area, yet it was two moves that skidded over the water that made the difference. Ipswich's Platt had to make outstanding and outstretched saves from Eves and Richards to keep his side in the game.

Armstrong missed all this. He was in the dressing-room at the time, having 18 stitches put in his leg. Middlesbrough, who do not seem completely without Armstrong, so it was fitting that they should equalize on his return and that he should reach the end of the game with a red badge of courage. Armstrong's goal is an example of the opposition's determination.

Wolves, so successful in Cup competition, must be wary of reaching the last four but they are experienced enough to know that it will not be easy. The red badge of courage, that Armstrong's goal is an example of the opposition's determination.

Wolves, so successful in Cup competition, must be wary of reaching the last four but they are experienced enough to know that it will not be easy. The red badge of courage, that Armstrong's goal is an example of the opposition's determination.

QPR wait on artificial pitch

By Norman Fox

Queen's Park Rangers may know by the end of the month whether the Football League will allow them to become the first to install an artificial pitch. The League's Management Committee met yesterday to hear the Rangers' chairman, Jim Gregory, request that permission be given, but no firm decision was taken.

Development of different sizes and better drainage have brought the widespread use of artificial turf in the United States has proved a great success are not being considered in the North American Soccer League. The grass and British players who have appeared on their artificial pitches have mixed feelings.

Although there are obvious advantages for the clubs who could use hard wearing synthetic surfaces as well as they wished to rent them for big events, the benefits for the game itself and the health of the players is questionable. Although some talented ball players like the true surface, others claim that it restricts natural movement and causes strains and burns.

The attempt by Rangers to hurry the League into a decision came as a result of frustration over the Loftus Road pitch under which there are springs that have always caused problems. This particular pitch is notoriously difficult to maintain, but by using large grass pitches now remain

in better condition than in the past. Development of different sizes and better drainage have brought the widespread use of artificial turf in the United States has proved a great success are not being considered in the North American Soccer League. The grass and British players who have appeared on their artificial pitches have mixed feelings.

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Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE	SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION	SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION	SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION
Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1
Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1
Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1
Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1	Blackburn 1 QPR 1

Weekend results and tables

FA CUP: Sixth round	SECOND DIVISION	THIRD DIVISION	FOURTH DIVISION
Manchester City 2 Ipswich 1	Manchester City 2 Ipswich 1	Manchester City 2 Ipswich 1	Manchester City 2 Ipswich 1
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THE ARTS

Snap New End

Irving Wardle

Edward Muggenridge, alias Edward Muggenridge, is known to the history of photography as the father of the moving picture. He it was in 1877 who set up 24 cameras with trip wires on a race track, thereby proving that the horse does not gallop off the ground. When Nigel Gearing seeks to show in this Foco Novo production that no one is so blind as the man behind the viewfinder.

Snap gives a highly selective account of Muggenridge's professional and private life; beginning with his departure from Kings-on-upon-10ames to California, finding pan in hand, to join the Gold Rush, and taking the swiftly through his days of street trading before installing him in a San Francisco studio, engaging a team of models: a can-can dancer; midwife, a bogus British sailor, and young Flora whom he married.

They strip off and go through their turns, freezing into poses of light as Muggenridge resumes his lecture to the house, ever more absorbed in his work, and wholly unaware of the distant relationship between his selected wife and the moustache-stroking Barry, until she gives birth to a child strikingly resembling his male model. Muggenridge promptly seeks him out and kills him, winning a court acquittal.

The play is not a career story with a bit of scandal on the

side. Rather it is a Faustian fable, showing that the pursuit of reality is the surest way of losing it. Muggenridge brings his betrayers together, and watches their naked revels, but all he sees is an objective record of the human body in motion. As he observes mournfully at the end, "perhaps the one who participates cannot photograph."

Nor everything in the play supports its main argument, and some essentials have been squeezed out. We never learn, for instance, why Muggenridge needed to conduct his motion studies with nudes; nor why he abandoned photography in his last years. The dialogue, too, flounders between tentative pronouncements and idiosyncratic quips ("a womb with a viewfinder") without achieving a clear statement of the aesthetic which underlies the remarkable exhibition of his work elsewhere in the theatre. Finally, the joke misano, accompanied by one Steve, A'Dor allows the production to hedge its bets; if you lose track of the argument, you can view its hero simply as an amusing eccentric.

On the whole Roland Rees's production is much too good for such devastation. Set by Adrian Vaux, between matt black walls like the inside of a box camera, it excels in divided action (childbirth screams coinciding with photographic prophecies), positive/negative light changes, agile scenic transformation within a tiny space, and reverse camera work, showing Flora arising from the dead. Oliver Ford Davies, eyes frantically blazing over a bushy beard, is inventively supported by Collette Hiller, Lucinda Curtis, and Jonathan Burn.



The Sage (Yair Vardi) embraces the Chosen One (Sally Owen) in *The Rite of Spring*

'Rite' scaled down to a harsh and primitive picture

Ballet Rambert Sadler's Wells

John Percival

When you are accustomed, as most of us are, to the great volume of orchestral sound in *The Rite of Spring*, it is highly disconcerting to experience Stravinsky's piano arrangement for four hands which was actually the first published version. Consequently, my reaction to Richard Alston's new ballet, first given on the opening night of Ballet Rambert's London season at Sadler's Wells on Friday, is somewhat mixed, and I give it in the knowledge that better performances may

swing my opinion either way. On the one hand, I see that Alston has concerned himself, more than any other choreographer whose Rite I have seen, with Stravinsky's subtle "Pictures of Pagan Russia". The outcome proves unexpectedly like a contemporary description, by Jacques Riviere, of Nijinsky's original choreography as "a biological ballet... the harsh struggle of growth, the panic terror from the rising of the sap, the fearful regrouping of the cells."

The bright, clear tone of the music relates it more closely to Les Noces, Stravinsky's other ritual invocation of Russian life. It was sensible of Alston to take Bronislava Nijinska's

choreography for *Noces* (reputedly inspired by her brother's Rite) as a model for his own choreography, and for Anne Gwynn's costumes similarly to derive more from Gontcharova's *Noces* designs than from Roerich's for *Rite*.

There are many virtues in the choreography. I remember especially the way the four women comfort each other in the opening passage, some sharply incised turning jumps in one of the big ensembles, the shuffling procession of the adolescent girls and Sally Owen's stubbornly determined contortions in the last solo.

Yet I am left with many reservations. The dances seemed, at first experience,

however, excellent. Anyway, we must be thankful that Diaghilev asked for a huge orchestration for *Rite*, since that helped bring Marie Rambert into ballet, initially to help Nijinsky analyze the music. And we can admire Richard Alston's courage and intelligence in finding a way to bring that musical masterpiece into the repertoire of the company she founded.

The other new work on the same programme, *Figures of Wind*, is a real oddity. Cliff Keuter's choreography sets the four couples moving with an agreeable energy to some attractive old music, excerpts from oboe concert and concerti grossi by Albion, Torelli and

Manfredini. That is all very pleasant, innocuous but not outstanding.

Before and between the dances, they perform unintelligibly courteous gestures in silence. Behind them is a backdrop, also conceived by Keuter, showing tall rocks like decayed teeth in a barren landscape. That changes for a while to a sort of black amoeba. Keuter's programme note tells us of "a spot where the dead pause before travelling on". It seems to me like a half-baked idea that completely fails to come off: the component parts remaining as unappealingly separate from each other as a disastrous experiment in the kitchen.

The Little Foxes Playhouse, Nottingham

Ned Chaillet

Whatever else Richard Dibley, Day has done in his first season as director of the Nottingham Playhouse, he has certainly changed the face of his audience. In the face of the broad mix of young couples, students and adventurous elders, the first night audience for *The Little Foxes* was noticeably senior and his choice of plays has seemingly encouraged serenity rather than excitement.

Not that Lillian Hellman's play is unworthy in itself. It is a fine, well-crafted drama with deep emotional values. As a picture of the complex social currents of the American South it has few rivals. With clarity it is Ibsen with magnolias as against the Strindberg of Tennessee Williams where the decline of the former slave-owning aristocracy produces explosions of the unconscious.

Mr Day has made it a star vehicle for Jill Bennett and, whether looking very handsome and predatory, has the presence for the part of Regina, the scheming wife who plans to make herself

privately wealthy with her husband's money, even if it is killing him. Unfortunately Mr Day's production does not hold together well enough to keep her in focus.

One crucially miscast part, that of the desperate and weak brother, Oscar, needs more of the quality of an ageing bully than Michael Tudor Barnes can represent, and without that weakness the tension is sacrificed. In better moments there are reasonable contributions from Edward Harwicke, as Regina's husband, and particularly from Jane Wenham as the alcoholic wife of Oscar who uses her voice with swoops and patterns like the flight of a skylark, and such characters allow the play to bump up and down in interest, but such adequacy is not quite enough.

At the beginning too many different versions of the southern accent intrude and the incestuous family bickering sounds more as if the arguments were being phoned in from different states. At the conclusion, when one of the impact has been rescued by impassioned acting, there is no trace of the South. Death and excitement have restored the rule of RADA.

The Seven Dials Mystery London Weekend

Michael Church

Some programmes start out with so much going for them that it amounts to a positive handicap. *The Seven Dials Mystery* came to us on the wings of lavish long-range publicity, money from Mobil Oil, a colossal gap in the schedules, a fleet of vintage cars and a galaxy of stars amid whom Sir John Gielgud and Cheryl Campbell would play father and daughter. And all to reanimate an obscure confection by Agatha Christie: as flops went, this would surely be the big one.



Cheryl Campbell

But it was not. Apart from one minor quibble (Gielgud seemed more like Miss Campbell's genial old great-uncle than her father) my astonished verdict is nothing but praise. The millions around the world on whom television co-productions are regularly foisted will in this case get their vicariously-spent money's worth.

Tony Wharmby's direction represented an expert restoration job. Van Gogh is a great-uncle adaptation entirely eliminated that creeping frowniness which time has laid on Agatha Christie's work. Easy to write, not requiring too much plotting and planning, she apparently said of her modest pot-boiler: on television it worked like a perfectly oiled and adjusted mechanism, every moving part in place.

In contrast to *Whip Did't They Ask Ems?*, whose plot ended in a cop-out, this chase was a fair one. Like all good family fun it could be enjoyed at several levels. For amateur sleuths the leads were deceptively scattered from the start, and by half-time there were

enough clues to suggest the identity of the villain without making anything too obviously clear. It would have taken a black belt at Cluedo to predict the final twist.

Limping along at the bottom of the class I doggedly backed the saturnine Sir Oswald until my companion pointed out the suave Thesiger's suspicious behaviour, but who would have thought the deadly Dials could thought out to be such an endearing, slightly altruistic bunch of freedom-loving Polish émigrés and investigative reporters?

As is well known, Agatha Christie dealt in unproblematic, two-dimensional characters which she moved round the board with chuckling pleasure. The cardboard templates were here given comfortably rounded

shape. Cheryl Campbell led the excellent cast with exactly the right blend of camped-up jokiness: perpetually encased in cloche hats and flapper dresses, this actress has an amazing ability to turn each stereotyped part she plays into something fresh and new. The drawing rooms, streets and clubs in my companion pointed out the suave Thesiger's suspicious behaviour, but who would have thought the deadly Dials could thought out to be such an endearing, slightly altruistic bunch of freedom-loving Polish émigrés and investigative reporters?

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Book review

God's Fifth Column

A biography of the age: 1890-1940

By William Gerhardie

Edited with an introduction by Michael Holroyd and Robert Skidelsky (Hodder & Stoughton, £19.95).

Soon it will be sixty years since that enchanting first novel, *Futility*, made everyone talk about William Gerhardie. How perfectly it matched its moment: it came early in the nineteenth century, the only hopeful decade of this century. Constance Garnett was still translating Chekhov's tales and plays. *Futility's* Russian themes were actually and artistically topical. They spanned pre and post-revolutionary Russia, from St Petersburg to Vladivostok, and the gay, sometimes comic atmosphere was not spoilt by a "happy ending".

leader but also the future wife of the future Prime Minister who was to lead us to war. Gerhardt's opening paragraph epitomizes his method.

As the century entered its last decade, Margot Tennant was twenty-six, with four more years of dazzling spinsterhood ahead before becoming Mrs. Asquith. William II, turned thirty-one, had been sitting on the German throne for two years, in exaltation, in excitement. Hitler was approaching his first birthday. Tolstoy had put sixty-two years behind him, and was faced with twenty more to unravel the angry dust in. The century was getting out in flight, gestures and mighty sighs.

The Empress Frederick, Alexander III, Chekhov, John Morley, F. E. Smith, D. H. Lawrence, Bismarck, Curzon, Bal-four, are quickly added. Hitler's father is contested with Lenin's mother. Bryan, Tchaikovsky, Wilde, Zola, Seelye, Froude, Chamberlain, Kipling (and other romantic imperialists) play their parts. Here are A. G. Gardiner's *Prophecy*, *Prisoners and Kings* not retrospectively but in action.

God's Fifth Column is history, however idiosyncratic. It is on the move all the time. It rises to heights of description: the deaths of Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Froude, a great artist who supply a theme of their own to the book: the slow descent to execution of the Tsar and his family, with the Empress mending the Emperor's trousers along the way, the inexorable approach of both world wars, Lenin's train journey back to Russia, and the kaleidoscope of the Revolution—all are memorable. The dashing of Curzon's ultimate ambition shows what he can do on a miniature scale.

The book's crowning irony is its Epilogue. The new world that Gerhardt declared forty years ago was being unthinkingly dismantled. It was now far from "the structurally admirable United States" serving as a model to the rest of the world, nationalism is rampant. Nobility is, however, not to be scorned because it is being reversed. Mr Gerhardt's last book has not the perfection of his first, but it is a continuously readable, stimulating, and impressive work.

William Haley

LPO/Rostropovich Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

In a season of almost total neglect of living composers by the big London orchestras, it was encouraging to find on Thursday a large audience gathered to welcome the British premiere of a French symphony, by Henri Dutilleul. Now in his mid-60s, Dutilleul is a kind of French equivalent to Tippett or Lutoslawski, a composer who has learned from his younger colleagues, but nevertheless remains wholly himself and true to a style reaching back to the period between the wars. In the manner of French independents his output is small, consisting of two symphonies, recently recorded, and fewer than a dozen other important works.

The new piece, composed in 1977, is typical of him. There is something Boulez-like in the subtlety of its scoring for full wind ensemble with cellos, double basses and percussion, and in its perpetual renewal of im-

palpable ideas, but it reminded me too, particularly in its harmony, of Berg and early Messiaen, Ravel and Debussy, while miraculously retaining a feel of lowering oppression and crystalline elegance. Dutilleul has revealed that the stoniest of this came from Van Gogh's late painting *The Starry Night*, although what he hears in Van Gogh is only himself.

Of the two short movements, the first, obsessively fixed on G sharp, is entirely successful, with its three waves of nebulous development, each more forceful than the last. It is a discussion of a cor anglais theme in the middle, and at the end the breath-taking entrance of the cellos at the height of a gathering storm in the wind. But the second movement, a dispirited and pretentious and then surprisingly vulgar in its rush to end with a bang. The whole work was, however, strongly urged by the London Philharmonic under Rostropovich. The time he must return with the concerto Dutilleul wrote for him.

Blair Brown inspired by the Russell touch

Blair Brown's first starring role in Hollywood does not, on the face of it, seem too promising. She is in a film in which the leading man turns into an ape. Yet Ken Russell's *Altered States*, based on a science fiction novel by Paddy Chayefsky, has been a surprise hit in America. Miss Brown—who in her early career narrowly avoided becoming a go-go dancer in the British television programme *Ready, Steady, Go!*—has emerged from this latest exotic endeavour as a sought-after leading lady.



The pseudo-scientific plot concerns a researcher, played by William Hurt, who immerses himself in a tank of water for extended periods. He does so to probe altered states of consciousness and, after sitting in on a Mexican sacred mushroom ceremony, he succeeds in taking his body back in time to earlier forms of human development. The most spectacular scene occurs when, in a temporary regression to a caveman, he escapes from the tank, assaults a guard and does unspeakable things with mountain sheep in Boston Zoo.

If it all sounds cranks in summary, imagine how hard it must be to act it with any conviction. Through it all, Miss Brown is required to play the role of an understanding wife, herself an anthropologist. (There is a vogue in Hollywood for brainy women: in a film she has just finished she is an ornithologist.) In *Altered States* she is almost the only sane person in the screenplay. She has her children, worries about his sanity, divorces him and in the end joins him in turning into a human embryo.

She does it all with aplomb, helped by her having some

sympathy for hallucinatory experiences. "I was a real child of the Sixties, a real hippie," she explains. "I had taken a lot of drugs in drama school. This was the first time I'd seen all the drugs and religious imagery in a screenplay. There are poetic passages and images that I found very moving. The metaphysical aspect, about the nature of reality and matter, was something I had explored in my experiences with drugs."

The imagery was created by Ken Russell, the director. Miss Brown found working with him an energizing experience. "He's very professional and very difficult," she says. "He demands a lot from people all the time and he certainly gives it. You work scenes in many different ways. It's exciting to work with him. He's not capricious. What he does is considered, though you may disagree with him. He's a visionary, not terribly literal-minded,

dancing role in the show but then was accepted for the Montreal Drama School and went to Canada instead. She had never consciously planned to be an actress; she had visions of being a surgeon or a scientist before she dropped out of college after two years. "Like Spencer Tracy thought acting wasn't a profession for a grown man, I thought it wasn't for a grown woman," she says.

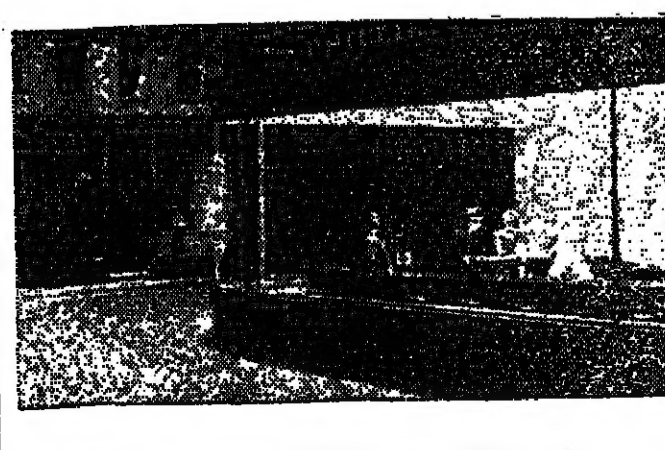
Those unmoved by Russell's hallucinatory visions might feel that this film is not for a grown person to be seen in or at, but it has clearly struck a chord with American filmgoers, feeding their current taste for the surreal and the fantastic.

Now that she has finished playing her ornithologist (in a film to be called *Continental Divide*), Miss Blair is temporarily not working. She is going back to Malibu to do up the neo-Gothic (1950) mini-castle she shares with her boyfriend. It is not that she has lacked offers, but she has not found a part she can get to grips with. "There aren't any good parts for women in movies at the moment," she says. "Come to think of it, there aren't many good parts for men. I guess it's just not a good time for human beings."

She is looking for a serious character role. "All those Australian movies we have here at the moment and are doing such good box-office—they have strong character roles but you couldn't raise 25 cents to make a movie like that here. All the parts I've been reading are just women reacting to men and I don't want that. I suppose, once you have reacted to your husband turning into an ape, everything else seems tame."

Michael Leapman

Edward Hopper



Arts Council of Great Britain
11 February-29 March
Hayward Gallery
South Bank London SE1
also showing: William Johnstone

ECO/Kraemer Queen Elizabeth Hall

Hilary Finch

In 1932 a film company made a blunder that cost them 70,000 francs (the Don Quixotte Chamber Orchestra's imaginative programming often provides a good story). They asked Ravel to write some music for Chaliapin to sing in a film about the maddest, secretly and foolishly consulted four other composers as well, including Ibert, whose version they chose. They were promptly sued by Ravel.

Thomas Allen's persuasive performance on Friday made it clear that we still hear too little of Ravel's last work, the three songs of Don Quixotte a Dulcinea. Each one is based on a Spanish or Basque dance: the pulsating, horn-flecked "Chanson romanesque" was sung with delightfully urbane passion; the swirling final "Chanson a boire" was rapt of diction, tone and rhythm but lies just a little too low for Mr Allen to project it with quite enough panache.

Between the two, like a fallow field, lies the "Chanson épique" a sombre prayer to Saint Michael and the Madonna, who, as in Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, re-

minds the young man of his other Lady: on Friday it was beautifully coloured and shaped vocally and orchestrally.

Ravel's *Pavane pour une Infante défunte* was a sensitive bridge between this and Mr Allen's contribution to the first, baroque half of the evening, three arias from Handel's *Deafness*. The chase almost got out of hand in the central scene of Apollo's pursuit, and Mr Allen seemed uncertain about quite how to treat his *da capo* vocally in two flanking series which were sung nevertheless with poised, sustained ease, as elegantly and confidently as they were supported orchestrally.

When Neil Black and James Brown, oboes, took their well-deserved bow after the opening *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, they pointed another particularly artistic piece of programming. Not only in that work, but also in Handel's Op 3 No 4 Concerto Grosso and in Haydn's Symphony No 90, they, together with the bassoon and flute, made the very most of every opportunity to lighten, reinvigorate and freshen the orchestral texture. Their playing, as co-stars of the evening, was a constant delight.

Ballet gala

Marguerite Porter, Mikhail Messerer, Wayne Sleep, Maine Gielgud, Robert Norrie, Doreen Wells and Adrian Darius will be among the artists appearing at the gala at Sadler's Wells on March 15 in aid of the scholarship fund for the Urdang Academy of Ballet and Performing Arts.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from Friday's later editions

Motor racing

Lotus break through with twin chassis

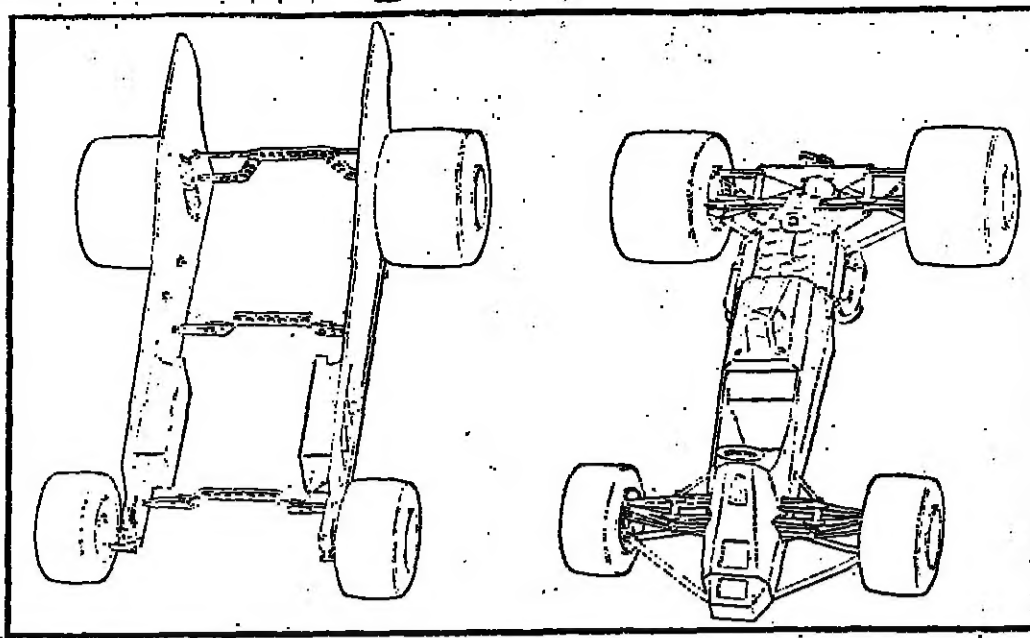
By John Blunsden

John Chapman and his team of Lotus research engineers have once again enhanced their reputation as the supreme pioneers of new concepts in racing car design.

In 1962 they made all existing cars obsolete with the introduction of the monocoque chassis. In 1967 they led the way again by making the engine an integral part of the chassis. Three years ago they forged another major breakthrough in using aerodynamics to create the ground effects car. Now they have unveiled the Grand Prix car with two separate chassis. Far fetched though it may sound, its attractions are such that others are almost certain to follow the Lotus lead. The design would seem to be the latest formula one regulations.

After 21 months of secret development, the first of the new cars designed by the Essex-based T.88, was flown out from London yesterday morning to California, where two days of testing at the Willow Springs race track are planned for this week. If these are successful the T.88 will take its place alongside the two conventional Lotus 88s in the paddock at Long Beach, where the United States Grand Prix West will open the 1981 world championship series next Sunday.

The first car has been allocated to the team leader Elio de Angelis, but a second T.88 is under construction and should be ready for Nigel Mansell to use in the Brazilian Grand Prix on March 29. The dual-chassis concept is another typically ingenious Chapman solution to what he has



Two into one does go: the ladder-type outer chassis of the Essex Lotus T88 (left) takes the aerodynamic strains while the inner chassis (right) insulates the driver, engine and transmission from vibrations and shocks.

described as the irreconcilable requirements of a car's suspension during the proper use of ground effect aerodynamics. So successful have designers become in using air-flow to force cars down on the track that the spring stiffness required to hold them there has

made the car almost impossible to drive on the limits. Drivers have complained of intolerable vibration, severe bruising, double vision and even difficulty in keeping their feet on the pedals.

With the T.88, the very high aerodynamic loads have been iso-

lated from those generated from the track. This has been achieved by rigidly attaching a one-piece outer body to a simple ladder-type chassis comprising a pair of vertical side plates made of carbon fibre and Kevlar composite material, braced by three steel

cross members. Four stiff coil-spring-dampers units mounted vertically alongside the chassis, provide the firm suspension required to withstand the high aerodynamic loads created by the body.

The driver's cockpit forms part of a separate inner chassis which also carries the engine, transmission and most other mechanical units, plus the fuel cell, and this is suspended much more softly through inboard mounted coil-spring-dampers. The effect is rather like that achieved by a commercial vehicle with a sprung cab, but in this case no one does it enhance driver comfort and controllability. It also insulates much of the car from the violent shocks and loads subjected to the stiffly suspended outer-chassis.

There is an inevitable weight penalty in having two chassis instead of one, although the liberal use of lightweight and sophisticated materials in forming the inner chassis has helped to minimize the weight increase over a conventional single chassis. Also all car constructors effectively have been given an extra 20kg to play with following the removal of the skirt and an increase in the minimum weight limit for cars of 10kg.

The Lotus team have been going through a thin period since their first ground-effects car, the Lotus 79, gave them such a decisive advantage over all their rivals in 1978. With the T.88 they now have the opportunity to make a big come back and to offer the Cosworth-Ford DFV engine, now approaching its fifteenth season of racing, a further lease of life.

Athletics

Victory goes to Goater but Moorcroft steals limelight

By Paul Harrison

Julian Goater was an overwhelming winner through mud, wind and rain of the senior men's 1,500 metres race at the National cross-country championships, sponsored by Provincial Insurance, at Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead, on Saturday. The 19-year-old RAF officer stationed at Harrgate, went the glory of one of the biggest winning margins ever, nearly two minutes, but much of the limelight was diverted elsewhere: to David Moorcroft.

Moorcroft, also 19, the Commonweath Games 1,500 metres champion, was left at the start when he mistook the three minute warning gun for the five minute one and lost about 100 yards before he caught the pack of more than 2,000 competitors. For the rest of the nine-mile course, he tried to pick his way through the hunch, finishing an extraordinary fourth. It was a performance that earned him a place in the English party to represent the club in the international cross-country in Madrid on March 28. There, where conditions are likely to be flat and fast, the track may come into its own.

Yet it was Goater's power that prevailed on Saturday, the Shafesbury Harrier commencing "afterwards" the fastest race in the half mile all I had to do was keep going." He won in 44 min 0.9 sec from David James, who came second in 46 min 34 sec.

The English team for Madrid, announced after the National, is: Goater, Clarke, McLeod, Blinn, Newton, Forster, Ford, Moorcroft and Rose. Nine others are included, despite not taking part in Parliament Hill. He ran instead in the American championships.

There is room in the junior team for Jonathan Brown, the 16-year-old of great promise from Camborne, Cornwall, who won the county's race by nearly a minute. Richard has no prizes at the conditions. "This is cross-country," he said. "If it was dry and

sunny, it wouldn't be cross country."

He had a good start, which was fortunate for the beginning of the race was a shambles. There were repeated rolling starts and in the end the 1,444 youths went of their own momentum with the starter's gun never being fired. A lone steward, some 50 metres up the course, tried, in vain, to stem the flow but the runners simply submerged him and flooded on and by like a tide along a beach. Such false starts have become all too common.

SENIOR (1,500m): 1. J. Goater (Shafesbury Harriers), 44 min 0.9 sec; 2. D. Moorcroft (Shafesbury Harriers), 46 min 34 sec; 3. D. James (RAF), 47 min 34 sec; 4. J. Brown (Camborne), 48 min 34 sec; 5. J. Newton (Forster), 49 min 34 sec; 6. J. Clarke (McLeod), 50 min 34 sec; 7. J. Blinn (Newton), 51 min 34 sec; 8. J. Forster (Ford), 52 min 34 sec; 9. J. Rose (Moorcroft), 53 min 34 sec; 10. J. Goater (Shafesbury Harriers), 54 min 34 sec.

COSFORD: AAA national indoor relay championships, women's 4x100m: 1. Birmingham Harriers, 50.1; 2. D. Clarke (McLeod), 51.1; 3. J. Blinn (Newton), 52.1; 4. J. Forster (Ford), 53.1; 5. J. Rose (Moorcroft), 54.1; 6. J. Goater (Shafesbury Harriers), 55.1; 7. J. Newton (Forster), 56.1; 8. J. Clarke (McLeod), 57.1; 9. J. Blinn (Newton), 58.1; 10. J. Forster (Ford), 59.1.

Not quite the worst One of the worst football teams in Britain yesterday celebrated their first victory. Coventry College who have lost 121 games in 15 matches in the North Sunday League, won 7-1 against St Anne's Wanderers, who have conceded 202 goals. "I thought we were bad, but Wanderers were really shocking," the Coventry manager said.

IAC challenge rejection of open athletics

By Norman Fox

Last week's decision by the Amateur Athletic Association to reject "open" athletics is being challenged by the International Athletic Club on the grounds that the resolution was invalid. The IAC believe that open athletics is in the best interests of the sport.

Counsel's opinion has been sought by the IAC, who doubt that the vote of 117-101 against open athletics was a true reflection of the membership of the AAA.

As a result the club suggest that there are three main reasons why the decision should not be acted upon "on or on behalf of the AAA".

The primary reason, they point out, is that the clubs were asked (a) to implement the recommendations, and, if so, how; or (b) to amend the recommendations, and, if so, how; or (c) to reject the recommendations, and, if so, why. Counsel considered that these three alternatives were not in those terms capable of a yes or no vote.

Apart from disagreeing with the wording of the resolutions, the IAC believe that several members sought to move amendments to them but the chairman "improperly refused to submit" any of them to the meeting. The IAC want the AAA to convene another extraordinary meeting to consider whether resolutions in relation to the recommendations of the report and/or the concept of "open athletics" can be properly voted upon by the club who have the right to the High Court if they do not have "an acceptable response" by tomorrow evening.

Mustafa's defence

By Michael Phillips

With Wayward Lad and Bregawn both ending up riders at Haydock Park on Saturday, Michael Dickinson's horse was as much to tell about as he returned home in the evening as he might have hoped for when he set out to cross the Pennines that morning. Yet he still had three winners at Haydock and two at Market Rasen, which was a bit of a business by most people's standards.

Yet upon reflection he had even more than those bare statistics to put about to cross the Pennines who must have given him that tingling feeling of high expectation was not even trained by him. For at Cheltenham, the time-form was given a dramatic boost by the fact that the winner of the first race, the Timeform Steeplechase, was a horse who had been trained by him. The way that Dramatist raced clean away from Henry Kissinger after the last fence, reminding us not for the first time what this

For the record

Fencing

LONDON: World Cup International Fencing Championships. Men's foil: 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Hockey

MIDDLESEX CUP: Quarter-final. London: 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Golf

BARCLAYS: Thailand Open. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Tennis

LOS ANGELES: Women's tournament. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Basketball

BRITISH FEDERATION CUP: Final. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Rifle shooting

NOTTINGHAM: British open single shot rifle championships. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Tennis

Mottram and a gamble restore British pride

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Take pride, this morning, in British tennis. Giving their finest performance since they beat Australia in 1978, Britain beat Italy in the first round of the Davis Cup de that ended at the Brighton Centre yesterday. On this last day Adriano Panatta beat Richard Lewis 6-4, 6-2, 6-4, to put Italy level, but Christopher Mottram, playing a "live" fifth rubber for the first time, defeated "The Little Soldier", Corrado Pasarelli, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Under the new format this puts Britain in the last eight. Their next opponents, New Zealand, have the right to play at home but have asked that they be played in Britain. Subject to agreement on financial terms the match will probably be played at Eastbourne the week after Wimbledon.

Italy may have been too confident. They had beaten Britain eight times since the Italians were crushed at Eastbourne, just along the coast, in 1933. They had reached the final four times in five years. In terms of rankings, reputation, and experience they were obviously the stronger team. But all that reached an age at which their competitive assurance was subject to erosion—especially under the stress of having to win three sets in an alien environment.

Britain were depending on Mottram to win both his singles and his doubles. The ability of Lewis or the doubles team to close what seemed, on paper, to be an awful gap in class. The first day ended as most of us expected it to. The sounder Mottram won 7-6, 6-3, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 against Panatta, who did not serve well enough and was forced to take two only chances. Barazzutti then beat Lewis 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

With Mark Cox's preliminary help, Lewis had raised the level of his game. A stout heart and nerves enabled him to stay on this previously untried peak for so long that he even had a point for the lead in the fifth set. Even in defeat, however, Britain's morale more good than Italy's. Lewis, in short, showed a certain class of daylight. Andrew Jarrett and Jonathan Smith pushed the door wide open.

Show jumping

ANTWERP: International show jumping. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Lacrosse

WISCONSIN: Women's international. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Netball

SHEFFIELD: British netball championships. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Cycling

ASTORIA: Tour of Columbia. Final stage. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Basketball

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STATE OF GOING

WINDSOR: 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

Windsor programme

2.0 THAMES HURDLE (Div 1): Novices: £483: 2m 30yd. 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

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Windsor programme

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Golf

Double firs for Wadham as a woman tees off

By Peter Ryde

Jan Tucker, a third undergraduate at Oxford University, has been included in the second team. They will play in their match against the Cambridge ladies at Southport and will travel before the unit match, which begins at 10 on March 20.

This break with tradition followed a tournament at two venues. The Oxford Dives at Niggly Place, and its opponent at Cambridge, as a result which was decided by a vote of the ladies. The vote was 10-2 in favour of the Cambridge ladies.

The British pair played the match of their lives and passed a formidable test of nerve in the fifth set. Other than the match point, no shot was more important than a near half-volley by Lewis in the fourth set, which was a turning point in the match. The most startling incident occurred when a spectator shouted an angry demand that the ban on smoking should be lifted.

It was much to Mottram's credit that what would have been a long and nerve-racking match, but it was not as long as it seemed. It lasted only an hour and 57 minutes. Barazzutti had three break points in the first set, but he failed to convert any of them. He converted only one in the second set, but he converted the other two in the third set. He converted the other two in the fourth set, but he converted the other two in the fifth set.

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Unknown Mexican forces

Paul Ramirez teamed with Jorge Lozano, aged 17, to deny a surprise victory to Mexico to play singles. A never heard of Lozano before this match, and I got it over as quickly as I could. The American said, "But it's really not to play a match like this, because you can't quite get the adrenalin flowing, not knowing who your opponent is." Ramirez added:

Two service breaks enabled McEnroe to win the first set. The 22-year-old star seemed to get stronger in the second set, during which he yielded only three points off his powerful service. Ivan Lendl stormed out of the singles match in the tie against Switzerland in Zurich after a disappointing start. The match was awarded to his opponent, the Swiss indoor champion, Roland Stadler, but the organisers said that they would complain to the International Tennis Federation and Davis Cup committee about Lendl's behaviour.

The Zurich organising panel also said that they would complain to the Czechoslovakian television rights and gate money. The organisers said that they would complain to the Czechoslovakian television rights and gate money. The organisers said that they would complain to the Czechoslovakian television rights and gate money.

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Sedgefield programme

2.15 CROOK HURDLE (Selling handicap: £444: 2m). 1. J. Keszler (Hungary), 2. J. Keszler (Hungary), 3. J. Keszler (Hungary), 4. J. Keszler (Hungary), 5. J. Keszler (Hungary), 6. J. Keszler (Hungary), 7. J. Keszler (Hungary), 8. J. Keszler (Hungary), 9. J. Keszler (Hungary), 10. J. Keszler (Hungary).

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Blakeway's injury casts a shadow

Pimpalcaré (Wanderers), M. J. Knaaz (Lansdowne), B. O.oley (Shahdol), B. D. Prichard (Loughborough), W. P. Duggan (Blackrock Colours), W. P. Slattery (Blackrock College), captain.

ENGLAND: W. M. H. Rose (Cambridge University), J. Carleton (Durham), H. W. Dodge (Leicester), R. B. Woodward (Leicester), M. A. C. Woodcock (Loughborough), J. C. (Cambridge University), S. J. Smith (Sale), C. E. Smiar (Newport), P. J. Wheeler (Leicester), P. J. Blackway (Leicester), G. A. G. (Leicester), Gloucester), W. B. Beaumont (TySida), captain, M. J. Colclough (Anjou), J. N. C. Jeavons (Mansley), J. P. Quinn, Cardiff, D. H. Cooke (Harrington).

Referee: J. P. Bodné (France).

**better
at relaxation**

By Gordon Allan

London Welsh 20 PSW 15

This match at Old Deer Park yesterday is believed to be the first in which London Welsh have played Public School Wanderers at 15-a-side level. Many will remember their Middlesex sevens finale at Twickenham in 1972 and

[illegible]

the Reading victors on Saturday, by the "confused" by conflicting advice of marshall's" set off m/nutes before the fight as Head crew, but then, in training, m/nutes at a vacuum. They were not at their best racing those crews, but they, in training, m/nutes that they were faster than, the first choice crew. The Leader reserves had eight seconds over the first eight, which were back in third.

St Edward's School, proved they are in the ascendancy, taking the 11th and 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211th, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311th, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411th, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511th, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611th, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th, 679th, 680th, 681st, 682nd, 683rd, 684th, 685th, 686th, 687th, 688th, 68

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The battle 14 days hence among the loose forwards and backs will be thrilling and decisive.

	P	W	L	T	A	Pts
France	5	3	0	54	37	6
England	4	2	1	52	44	4
Wales	4	2	1	51	61	4
Ireland	3	0	5	27	38	0

To play: March 21—England v France;
Scotland v Ireland.

[illegible]

Oxford University 15; Sale 0, Gosforth
 17; Saracens 6, Nunhead 3; Wasps 13,
 Coventry 7; Worcester 19, Northants
 16; Worcester 16; Warrington 16; Harlequin
 18; Ravens 17; West of Scotland 18, Ayr
 19; Wiltshire 9, Orrell 13. Cancelled:
 London XIII v Stewart-Melville FP.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Austin v France
 10; Bournemouth 10, Saracens GS
 Gravesend 19; Eitham 24, Bedford
 19; Gunnersbury HS 4, William Elms 12;
 Netherlands Youth XI 4, Habersham
 10; Hatching 6; Harlequin 7.
Sevens: 4; Nonmanion 1, Farnfield 7.
10-a-side: 4; Kirkham 6, Nonmanion 5, Macesfield 9, Ripper-
 dale 10; GS 3; West Park 3; King
 Edward VII, Latham 10.
11-a-side: International match: Italy
 France 17.

the game. In the first half, the home side, captained by St Albans had almost complete command of this period and it was only a brilliant strike by the visitors for some inspired play by Wallace and Craig in Southgate's defence.

And Kerly, two more experienced players from the England Under-17 squad, were instrumental in turning Southgate ahead in the second half. Kerly, who had been on the groundwork and after Hurst scored from the rebound, Kerly scored the second goal. England senior squad and awaits his first cap against Poland on March 16. Despite the second half dominance of the home side, Kerly in the last few minutes that they came close to an equalizer. However, Kerly's shot from a pass by Wallace was blocked on goal by Craig. In the closing minutes Southgate had a chance to add to their score when Driver sent a long ball, but Kerly hit the outside of the boards.

The bitter battle of nerves over pay restraint

The pickets outside Downing Street this morning are a painfully public index of the Government's failure to persuade its own employees of the necessity of pay restraint. Ministerial pleas for "realism" over wage rises have gone unheeded, and the conflict is now in the open.

Coming so soon after last month's pay restraint, the miners' over pit closures and jobs, the confrontation over civil service pay presents the Cabinet with another full-blown crisis of credibility, and it is hard to see how a face-saving compromise can be salvaged from the current impasse.

Both sides are playing for high stakes. The Government is hardening its whole policy of cash limits and its authority as an employer, while the unions are gambling on their ability to disrupt the flow of tax revenue to the Treasury by closing to Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget.

By going for the nation's financial jugular, rather than services to the public, the unions calculate that ministers will have to come back to the bargaining table quickly. But in the aftermath of the dramatic climbdown on cash limits for the coal industry, the Cabinet is scarcely in a position to concede another defeat at the hands of public sector unions only halfway through the pay round.

Ministers have secured some useful bridgeheads in the 71 per cent settlements for local government manual workers and teachers, though even these agreements probably owe more to very real fears of unemployment than to the smacks of firm government.

Elsewhere, union negotiators

Some key settlements and claims in the current pay round

Number	Group	State of negotiations
225,000	Coalminers	13% ten-month deal
57,000	Ford car workers	9.5% settlement
1,000,000	Local government manuals	7.5% agreement
2,500,000	Engineering workers	8.2% on basic rates
30,000	Firmen	18.8% "comparability" deal
250,000	NHS manuals	6% rejected
550,000	Civil servants	7% rejected; strikes starting
32,000	Water workers	13% offer; acceptance recommended
96,000	Power workers	11% rejected
70,000	Steel workers	6-month freeze then 7%
29,000	Merchant seamen	12% accepted; arbitration on overtime
50,000	British Airways workers	Three-month freeze, then 8 per cent offer
750,000	Building workers	20% plus shorter work week claimed
200,000	Clearing Bank staff	8.5% rejected, action planned

remain confident of their ability to drive their way through the single-figure wage guidelines. The miners reluctantly accepted 13 per cent, while the water workers appear even more grudging about taking a similar package. The power workers have rejected 11 per cent, and the gas men expect to do considerably better than the last offer of 10 per cent.

These public sector developments are taking place as private industry reels from crisis to crisis and pay deals are "firmly into single figures" according to the CBI. From 16 per cent last summer, the level of settlements tumbled to 8 or 9 per cent in the new year and is still falling. Indeed, some West Midlands firms are reporting zero-increase agreements, and nearly half the companies reporting to the CBI cite the risk of redundancies as the main cause of shopfloor moderation.

However, the fear of unemployment has evidently not

had as much impact in the public sector as it has in private industry. It was a potent factor in the local government negotiations and in areas such as British Steel, British Leyland and British Airways where state enterprise has to compete in a free market place. But in the gas, water and electricity monopolies, in the traditionally militant mines and elsewhere the same anxieties have not been generated.

In this context, it is interesting to note that a comprehensive brief on their dispute prepared by the civil service unions provides a question-and-answer rebuttal of likely criticisms of their strike campaign. Not one of the 15 model questions asks: "Won't a higher settlement than the 7 per cent offer mean fewer jobs?"

Of course, the civil service has shed some 70,000 jobs since the Conservatives took office. But most of these have gone via the relatively painless route of natural wastage and non-replacement.

And if the civil services unions do not fear unemployment, nor are they greatly anxious about the risk of service personnel taking over their jobs during the dispute.

These considerations are already well known to ministers, whose chief response is likely to be a "big stick" policy of mass suspensions and reprisals against groups of staff who refuse to do the work of strikers. The unknown quantity in the forthcoming guerrilla war is how long the unions' nerve will hold out.

This is the first time that all nine civil service unions have joined in a common claim and common industrial action that cuts across occupational and status boundaries. And the more links there are in the chain, the greater the likelihood that one or more will give.

One possible solution already being aired privately by the Civil Service Department is an inquiry into what should take the place of the Pay Research Unit (PRU), the comparability fact-finding body whose work has been unceremoniously



Civil service strike operations room: little fear of redundancies.

suspended. Its reports, which form the basis of collective bargaining for civil servants, have been suppressed and the sense of grievance by the service has been fed more by this act than by the modesty of Lord Smeaton's 7 per cent offer. It smacks of rejecting the unions' decision.

But the Government is deeply suspicious of the whole mechanism of comparability between public and private employment, and having scrapped the Clegg commission now wants to shift to a more easily-managed system for assessing the worth of its own employees.

The trouble with PRU is that it has traditionally sought to make good the gap between salaries in public employment and best practice in large, roughly analogous private sector firms; whereas for Conservatives the reality of the world outside Whitehall is a jungle ranging from back-street rogue outfits to the relatively secure environment of blue-chip private enterprise.

Over the 25 years that the

system has operated, the civil service unions have honed the statistical reports of the PRU into a formidable bargaining weapon. In effect, a government-financed research body has been providing the unions with bullets to fire back at the Cabinet, and perhaps it was too good to last.

But in their keenness to be seen to be standing firm when all around in the public sector are giving in, ministers have failed to identify the fundamental sense of grievance created by the virtually overnight abolition of the "fair comparison system".

Taking away PRU without having something plausible to put in its place now looks like a serious error of industrial relations judgment. Now they have pushed the moderates into an alliance with the militants, and the consequences are standing outside their offices with placards in their hands.

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

What Britain should do about El Salvador

Eric Heffer

According to a journalist friend who went to Washington with the Thatcher press entourage, the Prime Minister did a good job in restraining President Reagan and his colleagues concerning El Salvador. If this were true, we should all be happy, but surely her "success" was minimal in the sense that although she may have procured with any immediate plans to blockade Cuba, and despite Lord Carrington's less than enthusiastic acceptance of United States policy in El Salvador, she did not express any opposition to what the United States is doing in El Salvador and publicly gave it her blessing.

Immediately before Mrs Thatcher's visit to Washington, the United States Government worked hard to win support for its policy in El Salvador, sending special envoys to Europe who paid particular attention to the Labour Party and its allies in the Socialist International.

At a meeting arranged at the House of Commons between some members of the international sub-committee of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee and Herman Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the United States, Government efforts were made by Mr Cohen to convince us that the guerrilla fighting in El Salvador against government and right-wing forces was part of a communist plot to overthrow the existing order in Central America.

He also tried to convince us that the guerrillas were reaching Cuba and Nicaragua on a large scale. We were told that there were documents to prove this, although no copies of these were to hand.

Stephen Webb, an American writer in theophile of his book, *Jose Napoleon Duarte and the Christian Democratic Party in Salvador Politics 1960-72*, says: "Political expectations, particularly in certain areas, had been raised to such a point that they could hardly be deflated without serious cost, and the blatant employment of legal and extra-legal electoral controls in 1972 had contributed to the alienation of the opposition and severely damaged the credibility of the democratic revolution."

The events of the 1970s would encourage not only the growth of leftist guerrilla movements, but also right-wing paramilitary organisations and El Salvador would experience in the 1970s the sort of political warfare—clandestine armies of the ideological extremes attacking visible enemies of the centre such as the Church, the Government and the opposition parties—the Guatemala had suffered in the 1960s.

At the time certain right-wing forces were campaigning for "sanitation" against "communists" wherever they might be—in the Supreme Court, the Legislative Assembly, government ministries and even the clergy.

It is obvious that suppression and manipulation of democratic rights led to the rise of young leftist guerrilla forces which in turn intensified the growth of right-wing paramilitary groups resulting in bloodshed and violence affecting thousands of innocent people.

At such times surely even right-wing democratic Governments should give support and not hostility to those democratic forces which have failed to find a peaceful solution. It has been forced to take up arms against their oppressors. The leftist for present American policy is the fact that El Salvador's President is Jose Napoleon Duarte whose Government is described

as being centre-right and who in the past has been a charismatic Christian leader with a record of democratic rights.

At one time when President Reagan's presidential candidate Guillermo Manuel Ungo was today both leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (D.R.F.), a democratic party affiliated to the Socialist International and a rival from the Government on the left, he clearly showed the undemocratic nature of the regime. He recently arrested some far right militarist supporters of the ruling military junta.

On a recent visit to Britain, Delgado, a former high-ranking views, therefore not in sympathy with most of his fellow-Salvadorans, tried to convince meeting of Labour MP's, the present Salvadoran Government had nationalised banks, had a programme of reform and were calling for a return to democratic rule.

If that Government is progressive why are the democratic forces of Ungo's M.R. not supporting it, and why are the Reagan administration Government which is said to be practising policies which are anathema to him?

In a recent pamphlet, *Church, Hope and Love in Central America*, by Samuel A. Chavira, a Guatemalan Jesuit, writing the murdered Archbishop Romero said: "Preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God, the Church has achieved a revival of Church life and unprecedented unity among its members, priests, catechists, preachers, catechists and so on. Under his leadership, the Church as a whole gained influence and credibility in society."

He further said: "The Church has become the voice of the poor. He has evangelized all men according to the different situations; giving hope to the poor, revitalizing popular religiosity, guiding these Christians who are more involved politically, calling these people to open their eyes to conversion. The Church has denounced with freedom, for the sake of the country and consistently stressed the need for new social and political structures. Under the leadership of Archbishop Romero the Church adopted a social position which corresponded to the preferential option for the poor." For that, and it should never be forgotten, Archbishop Romero was assassinated.

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increasingly more perilous as if Mrs Thatcher really wants to make a serious contribution to peace and is truly concerned about democracy and freedom she should say to President Reagan, publicly and in clear-cut terms, "stop giving arms to the El Salvadoran Junta, support the call of the Swedish Foreign Minister, Mr Ola Ullsten in negotiations and heed the warnings of Archbishop Quintanilla Francisco of the danger of the United States becoming more involved with the Salvadoran Junta."

She should also ask the United States to withdraw its military advisers immediately and support all efforts to end the violence and establish democracy and human rights in El Salvador.

The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton.
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Inflation: can the patient survive?

The inflationary disease is being contained, the patient is being kept alive, but the disease is being kept alive.

The wild recession cannot be blamed for what is happening. Britain's export markets grew in volume by 6 per cent in each of the last two years. And North Sea oil has insulated us from world inflation.

Britain's oil wealth has required some structural adjustment of the pattern of our trade, implying a small reduction in the rate of growth of our manufacturing industry. But it could not conceivably justify an absolute decline in our manufacturing output—let

alone the 15 per cent contraction which has occurred in the past year.

Another major fallacy going the rounds is that the Government has made private industry bear too much of the burden of its fight against inflation by failing to make sufficient cuts in public expenditure. There is only one way in which private industry can now be rescued, and that is by a sustained increase in sales and profits. Further cuts in public expenditure, so far from relieving British industry, will make its sales prospects even worse. A cut in interest rates may help, but this

does not require further cuts in public expenditure.

After the farcical experience of monetary targets during the past year no-one can any longer say, without looking ridiculous, that lower interest rates necessarily increase the money supply or, if they did, that this would matter.

Why hasn't the slump caused more serious and more general concern and indignation? There is one clear reason: the Government is directly related to strategic mismanagement by both the present Government and the last one. We have been consuming more without producing more. Since 1976 industrial production has fallen by over 10 per cent and total domestic output, excluding the North Sea, is, if anything lower than it was five years ago. Yet personal consumption in total has grown by at least 10 per cent. Consumption and take-home pay have even gone on rising through the period of industrial collapse since the end of 1979.

The paradox is partly resolved by the fact that oil production and improving terms of trade (pushed up by the exchange rate) have raised our national income by 6 or 7 per cent. To this extent, spending could rise without any growth at all in our non-oil production.

The other point is that within the total national income there has been a big shift in favour of the personal sector at the expense of companies and government finances. Many factors have contributed to this: high interest rates, the squeeze on export profits margins and on capacity utilization, the rising cost of social security. The result has been to sustain growth of private consumption at the expense of a catastrophic fall in company profits, public investment and now private investment.

vestment as well. North Sea oil has been misused with a vengeance and our productive base has been badly damaged.

The present position is unsustainable. Away from the fact that North Sea oil has nearly reached its peak, the exchange rate has been so high for so long that export sales are bound to fall substantially over the next two years (as surveys by the Confederation of British Industry indicate).

If fiscal and monetary policies are not substantially modified the slump will continue with no sustained recovery at any stage.

Alternatively, if policies are relaxed sufficiently to halt the rise in unemployment, a huge fall in the exchange rate will occur. We estimate that a "dash for growth" type of recovery at anything like present exchange rate would after two years generate a balance of payments deficit of £10,000 million or more.

To put the same point another way, a devaluation of around 40 per cent would now be needed to preserve balance of payments equilibrium and

prevent unemployment rising at the same time. And any large fall in sterling would within a few months bring inflation back to 20 per cent and more, with rising prices cutting into real incomes.

This underlying dilemma of economic policy has worsened to the extent that any significant relaxation of fiscal and monetary policy now, particularly if the Government is known to desire some fall in the exchange rate, is likely to generate a heavy, prolonged and uncontrollable run on sterling with disastrous consequences for inflation long before there is any sign of recovery from the slump.

Our view is that fiscal and monetary policy should be relaxed and that some devaluation of sterling is essential if British goods are ever to compete successfully in home and overseas markets. But if our analysis is correct people may wonder whether there will ultimately be any alternative to the imposition of direct controls over foreign exchange transactions, imports and money incomes.

Francis Cripps and
Wynne Godley

The growth of national income

	(per cent of national income)	1956-66	1966-76	1976-81
Sources of growth in national income:				
Industrial production	14.9	5.0	-5.0	
Other domestic output	18.3	17.5	3.5	
Overseas income, terms of trade and North Sea	0.8	-2.9	7.5	
Increase in national income	34.0	19.6	6.0	
Uses of growth in national income:				
Private consumption	19.5	12.8	6.7	
Public services	3.6	6.2	0.9	
Fixed investment	10.4	4.5	-2.3	
Stockbuilding and current balance of payments	0.5	-3.8	0.7	

Estimates for 1981 from CEPG model; historical data from national accounts.

Being British in a trouble spot

The good news from San Salvador is that the bar at the British Club has a two-month reserve supply of liquor and its members' upper lips are so stiff they could open bottles of tonic water with them.

The bad news is that the tonic water is not Schweppes: El Salvador's water is so full of troubles have caused a curtailment of supplies. Moreover, membership of the club is dwindling as the weaker brethren pack up and leave. The billiards and snooker competitions had to be cancelled because, with too few contestants, they had become "a farce". The cricket team cannot find 11 players. The "happy hours" at the bar on Friday evenings were abolished because of the curfew.

The British Club is a modest, heavily mortgaged house in a side street off the broad Paseo Escalón in the western part of the city, commanding a view of Hardee's Hamburger House.

On the right of the entrance is a dining room with three small tables, the last pictures of the Queen and Prince Philip taken a dozen or more years ago. Facing that is a list of the club's past presidents.

One of them, Henry Ellison, accompanied me. He was the club's president in 1964 and now, at 75, it's oldest member. "All the others have left except me," he mused, surveying the list with a sigh.

Peter Caswell, the vice-president and treasurer, confirmed that the rolls were dwindling alarmingly, down now to less than 100. Two years ago they were double that and there was talk of limiting new members.

Caswell himself was to join the throng of the departing a few days after my visit. The insurance company he works for was posting him to Panama.

The notice board told much of the story. A copy of "paper clip", the club's duplicated news sheet, dated October, was pinned up. "It's not come out recently because nobody has been able to do it," Mr Ellison explained.

For sale, read a notice, "Sears frig, patio furniture, baby car seat," and another: "Home wanted for 3-year-old cocker spaniel, affectionate and good with children, and again: 'Maid with references seeks work for March.' All things up the loose ends of departure.

I continued the tour. The bar, the club's social centre, is curved, with jokey crests fixed to a panel above. A large fan whirrs comfortably overhead. The Times and The Daily Telegraph, none newer than two weeks old, lay on the table.

The library holds bound volumes of Punch, for a good British piggle, as well as a well-thumbed billiards and snooker rule book. On the shelves are trophies for table tennis, football and darts.

The darts board is in the next room, near the piano. "We used to have concerts but they're in abeyance now," said Mr Ellison. "The billiard room, with a rude poster on the wall, is beyond and the swimming pool beyond that."

I was there on the day of the annual general meeting, held on a Saturday afternoon because of the curfew. Chairs had been drawn up in the piano and darts room, and a table covered with red, white and blue cloth.

Carol Thearle, head of science at the British school here and the club's secretary, opened the meeting after it was decided that the 12 members and five wives present constituted a quorum. She listed the entertainments members had managed to enjoy despite the trouble: the curry night, the white and con carne concert and western night, the Queen's birthday party, the halloween barbeque and the rest.

Caswell gave the treasurer's report. "We are still solvent," he declared, though owing money for the premises. He chastised members for not being generous enough with the Christmas box for staff who had reported for work every evening, through the worst of the crisis.

Then came election for the committee in which almost every person who could be coaxed into standing was successful. The rule is that at least four of the committee of nine must be a British or Commonwealth citizen—a requirement that gets harder to fulfil year by year.

Less than a third of the members are British. The rest are people the British like to drink: with the Americans and better class Salvadorans.

One hardship only indirectly to do with the political troubles and which caused great anguish was the question of credit at the bar. One of the valued benefits of club membership, from Pall Mall to Paseo Escalón, is that you can get drinks and run pay for them until next month or later.

Because of the club's cash flow problem, this privilege is

being abolished here. Members must put up bonds in advance. There were pained looks but in the end they agreed to the blow with the stoicism of people accustomed to gloom.

During the meeting, emergency supplies of beer were being ferried from the bar. After it, they all gathered there to fill up and console themselves. They were surviving the constant violence and curfew. They were being—what else?—very British about it.

"It becomes a way of life," said Carol Thearle. "You learn to look in your rearview mirror when you're driving."

Roger Brumby, another teacher at the British school spoke of another deprivation. "A group of us used to climb the volcano here," he said. "We stopped 15 months ago. Wise for the volcano are where the left-wing guerrillas have some of their camps."

An enviable quality of expatriates anywhere is their ability to convince themselves that whatever local difficulties there are, things are better than in their homeland, which has been accelerating downhill since... well, since they left.

"Who's on strike here?" queried Danny Franklin, a committee member. "Believe it or not, we did not have a strike here from Britain. I could not tell him and therefore to make the point that, despite industrial relations difficulties, we did not share El Salvador's disconcerting tradition of slaughtering our political opponents nightly."

Dennis Martin, who runs a school of commercial English and is married to the sister of the deputy head of the National Guard, said: "I'm right-wing, always have been," and went on to tell me of a

letter he had recently written to a relative in England: "I'm sitting on my balcony watching the volcano and eating melon and pears and the temperature is 75°. How is London in February?"

Many members complained that reporters who had visited the club previously had written articles giving the impression that the British community was unconcerned about El Salvador's difficulties, spending their time sitting round the pool drinking gin and sniffing the tropical flowers. ("If he can find any tropical flowers round our pool..." stormed one man.)

I do not want to be accused of giving the same impression because it is false. The British here are showing courage and concern for their temporarily adopted country.

This is particularly true of the teachers at the British school, who have a sense of mission, believing they're doing something worthwhile in instilling their values into the 600 pupils, mostly sons and daughters of healthy Salvadorans.

"I think things will move more quickly here if I can touch people who will have the power," he said.

He begged Britishers to not give any embassy... to pressure them anymore. It was close soon after the kidnapping of two British bankers in 1979 and now, stands locked and barred, we were viewing from its window boxes.

Without an embassy, without Schweppes, they console themselves with the weather and the volcano. Not to mention the well-stocked reserve of spirit, in both senses of the word.

Michael Leapman



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مكتبة الأصيل

Cricket

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, March 8

Robin Jackman soon made an impact here today—on the field this time rather than off it. Coming on when Haynes and Greenidge, opening for Barbados, were in full cry, he removed Haynes and in Partnership with Emburey gave England's howling a much tighter look than when Botham and Stevenson had been using the new ball. At close of play Barbados were 133 for three in reply to England's 298.

Until Jackman and Embury bowed together England had been struggling with ball as well as ball. There is just enough pace in the pitch—for anyone of genuine pace. That is—to suggest that England's batsmen may find all the protection they can need in the Test here on Friday. Their batsmen have mostly taken to wearing forearm guards, right handers on the left arm, left handers on the right, being able to expect nothing from the umpire by way of a realistic interpretation of the law covering fast, short-pitched bowling.

Against Botham and Stevenson, of nothing like the same race as Clarke. Daniel and Marshall. Greenidge played some dazzling strokes while opening the Barbados innings, but Jackman, once he had picked up his line, had Haynes' caber at the wicket. Driving at him, Embury howled beautifully having George Reifer dropped at slip and Greenidge and Trotman then caught there by

Bootham, In the hour before tea, Barbados scored 67 without loss; in the two hours afterwards they made an other 66 while losing Haynes, Greenidge and Trouman. Barbados are playing three fast bowlers rather than their customary four (Garner is resting and Alleyne unfit) but even with the extra bowlers they are allowing more overs than any of them. The Islands over-rate was still miserably slow and the amount of short stuff unattractively high. With another match coming up it is ominous to see so many bouncers passing unchecked. From Clarke and Marshall there were usually two an over, often three. For four-and-a-half hours yes

terday, Boycott ducked and weaved and searched around for scoring chances. This was his sixth first-class innings of the tour and the fifth time he has reached 70 without going on to his hundred. He puts it down to a lack of cricket in which to get into the way of playing a long innings. Also, of course, the constant wear of facing fast bowling takes its toll.

The best of the England batting came when Boycott and Gower were together and before Gower allowed himself to be unhappily run out. Having gone down the pitch and hit Padmore hard and straight to King at the wicket, Gower rather dawdled around, knowing it to have been the last ball of the over. For want of anything better to do King, an uninhibited creature, hurled the ball back to the wicketkeeper and turned away, it occurring no more to him than to Gower that anything might come of it.

Will Murray taking off the hat before the umpire had called out, or Gower had bithnered to regain his ground, Gower had to be given out. Boycott's pleading on Gower's behalf, on the grounds that the ball was dead, was unavailing.

Boycott promised well for half an hour. Butcher lived chancily for two hours and quarters before being marvellously caught on the long-on boundary. Colin Milburn, mouth watering, felt that Butcher got away with murder. He let it go, trying to hit him home over his head with Boycott and then Butcher were out.

This morning, in two hours, England added 57 runs from 29 overs. Willey, dropped twice at the foot of the ball, during the time. Botham, musing at the time not to get himself out, took nearly three hours to get 41. He had recovered from a nasty knock on the head, which he had received from Clarke, who bowled promisingly some of the time, but when he was caught at the wicket, after a long and hard struggle.

After lunch, with bouncers still abounding, Willey was caught at the foot of Clarke, who bowled to Stevenson, who was out. Botham, Jackson, generously enough received, had a nasty little misunderstanding with Birstow, which led to Birstow being run out. Willey was out again. England's innings had lasted for eight hours 50 minutes—or 132.4

overs, 35.4 of them bowled off a short, quick run by Padmore. Not long ago, in the same length of time, Barbados would have expected to bowl perhaps 180 overs, worth a total in excess of 400, even at England's scoring rate. So changes the game for the worse.

[illegible]

SARADODS First Innings	
C. G. Greenwood, c. Nathan, b. 45	
D. M. Haynes, c. Rainford, b. Jack, 21	
C. Reiter, not out 35	
C. Trotman, c. Bishop, b. Embury, 10	
C. King, not out 4	
Extras (b-b 3, w 1, n-b 2) 6	
Total 135 wickets 155	
D. A. Murray, L. Reiter, M. D. Marshall, c. Bishop, b. S. T. 10	
Clark, b. W. Daniel, not out 10	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 3-100, 4-100	
BOWLING: Beitham, 2-0-20-0; Sivaraman, 2-0-20-0; Embury, 16-0-40-0; Marshall, 1-0-10-0; S. T. 1-0-10-0; Willey, 1-0-10-0.	
Umpires: S. Parris, on D. Archer.	
SCORES: India 174 for 3 in 25.5 hours.	
CHAUDRY 78, S. A. Gavaskar 51, V. V. Kulkarni 49.	

New Zealand.—Regular.

From John Hennessy
Hartford, March 8

It is the morning after the tumultuous night before and the two charming young skaters from Nottingham still find it hard to come to terms with what they have achieved. Their eyes carry a hint of the triumph of having won the world ice-dance championships here last night, but their mood is

still one of sweet bewilderment.

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean seemed different people from those who produced such historic changes of mood on the ice, according to the demands of the music, the number, the quantity, the quality, the quantity, the arrogance of the *paso doble*. "I don't feel any different from yesterday," Dean said. "There is almost a sense of anti-Chalms now." It's all over.

The accomplishment here hardly seemed possible when the season began. The rise from sixth place to first, even in the wake of the usual post-Olympic deflation, is an astonishing feat. And it is an astonishing feat. Further, it is an astonishing feat. Further, it is an astonishing feat.

natural concern of some city ratepayers at the grant of \$40,000 for the next three years to help them sustain their attempt on the 1904 Olympic gold medal. "Severely disappointed," he said, "I have no proud legend 'City of Notting-ham' shining from their track suits before the world's press last night.

They had been drawn to skate first in the five leading couples, a disgracefully disgraceful position as a general principle, but at least it spared the nerve-wracking wait in the dressing-rooms listening to the volleys of applause won by their opponents. On the other hand, they

caution to allow some leeway from any blockbuster that might follow.

One had one's fears about the strength of character of Miss Torvill and Dean, 23 and 22 respectively, who come from humble backgrounds and are not American; the actress had in the event proved they were superbly responsive and sensitive to the highly-charged atmosphere created by a stadium crammed to the rafters with nearly 15,000. They were better even than it looked; a man who again when the words "European title in front of a comparatively speaking, a handful of on-lookers."

[illegible]

The Americans suffered a demoralizing setback within half a minute when Seifert caught a heel and they fell, for no reason other than that himself had not done and subsequently did, any number of daring manoeuvres and there was a cruel irony on his loss of concentration when absolutely no danger threatened. A fall in ice-dance is much more serious than in ballroom dancing. "I was in myself," said Seifert afterward, "that's the name of the game." Their chance of any kind of medal was gone now, but they proceeded to give a performance that suggested what might have been.

The bronze medal in the end went to the dazzling second Russian couple, Natalia Bestemirskaya and Andrei Butenko, who were a second British couple, Karen Barber and Nicholas Slater, again skated with charm and vivacity to finish seventh, an advance of three places on their previous record. Virginia Hastings and Stephen Williams took 11th place, a highly encouraging first appearance in this company.

The British lady was a specialist in Mrs Callaghan's Afternoon Tea. Mrs Callaghan, after a decade of Russian domination she has won the world title on two successive occasions, with another Russian partner, Irina Rodnina, now with a British. Had this victory come too soon, with Sarajevó in mind? "Yes," she said. "I think I must have to work much harder."

A postscript is demanded by Deborah Cornill, second in Britain, sixth in Europe, and now fourth in the world at a superb level of performance. She is a night-terribly early hen, yet, lo!

the realm of aerobic skating she ranked second only to Denise Biellmann, the enchanting Swiss girl, with the spectacular two-handed overhead catch-foot spin, but she was the only one to show a short program of the seven of Elaine Zayak, the 15-year-old American champion. The imminent retirement of Miss Biellmann leaves us with the dispiriting prospect of a jumping machine succeeding to the world title. Where, oh where, is the message first broadcast by John Curry in 1976?

WOMEN'S FINAL PLACINGS: 1. D. E. Zavan, 11-0; 2. S. C. Krikelove, 10-0; 3. J. E. Krikelove, 9-0; 4. J. E. Krikelove, 8-0; 5. J. E. Krikelove, 7-0; 6. J. E. Krikelove, 6-0; 7. J. E. Krikelove, 5-0; 8. J. E. Krikelove, 4-0; 9. J. E. Krikelove, 3-0; 10. J. E. Krikelove, 2-0; 11. J. E. Krikelove, 1-0; 12. J. E. Krikelove, 0-0.

Aspen, Colorado, March 5.—Victory for Phil Mahre, of the United States, in yesterday's men's giant slalom here maintained the suspense in the World Cup. However, Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, still needs only one more slalom win for his fourth World Cup.

[illegible]

By a Special Correspondent
 English translation entered

British gymnastics entered a new era when men from the Soviet Union arrived at Wembley arena to meet Great Britain for the first time as a team in the Hunt International on Saturday. Nobody expected a British victory, but when the Russians won by only a few points, much surprise and admiration for Britain were expressed, and none was more vociferous than from the national coach, John Anderson, who publicly declared before the match that he would settle for defeat by 15 points without a loss of national dignity.

It was true that the Soviet Union did not field their Olympic squad in the team there were the European junior champion the Kirovets and several gymnasts qualified for the world championships later this year.

The struggle started untidily with both teams falling badly from their tumblers in the floor exercise. For Britain, it was Noel came to the rescue with 9.10 for his prone to handstand move, Keith Langley was on 9.15 and Barry Winch scored 9.20. For the Russians, Kirovets hit 9.25 by a mere 0.70 of a mark after the first discipline, but snatched a further mark for pommel and another 1.50 for rings. The result

the courage to fight back and they beat the Russians at vaulting by 0.3 of a mark with Winch scoring 9.3, Langley and van Hoof 9.35 each, and the Welsh champion, Andrew Morris, 9.30.

By comparison the women's match, running simultaneously against Canada, was a poor contest for the British, who were out of sync from the start, and lost by a gymnast from the last world championships and Moscow Olympics.

The sole survivor, Monique Gorrall from Preston, showed class when she was everything in her 37.05, but no other British girl could match her consistency. Cheryl Weatherstone, who competes for Connecticut for a place in the U.S. British team, did the Atlantic to come bottom-with 7.75 for very poor beam work.

Britain's women lost to Canada in the Commonwealth Games in 1975 and their hopes for revenge were dashed when they lost to the U.S. 6.48 marks after losing on bars, beam and floor with vaulting as their only success.

MEN: Great Britain, 271.10, USSR, 273.50; **Placost:** 1, V. Korolyev (USSR), 56.10; 2, A. M. Rammov (USSR), 55.85; **Equal 1:** M. Grigolov (USSR), 55.20; **B. Winch:** GR, 55.25; 2, K. Langley (GB), 54.68; 3, E. van Hoof (GB), 53.10.

WOMEN: Great Britain, 180.10, Canada, 186.50; **Placost:** 1, C. Scroggs (Canada), 39.10; 2, S. Hawkin (Canada), 37.68; 3, B. Wilmshier (Canada), 37.50; 4, J. M. Gormall (GB), 37.05; 5, A. Bouman (Canada), 36.75.

By Roy McKelvie
John Ward, the

player and a sticky customer to play, had a tussle with Michael Gradon in the amateur real tennis singles championship at Queen's Club yesterday. Ward won by 6-5, 6-4, 6-3, more by wearing down the loser than by any positive action.

Gradon, the best player to come out of Cambridge University for some years, has an attractive flowing style, holds the head of the

rackler high, gets down to cut his strokes and is mobile. The test and skill began to show when Ward was leading 5-2 in the first set. To reach set point, Ward had a very short chase which Graden beat. Graden then tested, deduced and outplayed his man, squared the set at 5-5.

Leading 4-1 in the second set, Graden had points for 5-2 and 5-3 but began to lose steam. He was not at his best and, possibly through tiredness, began to miss chances. He recovered at the start of the third set but then faded as if he felt there was not much more he could do against a

METAPHORICAL BRICK WALL.

FIRST ROUND: A. Kanawha beat D. H. Hayley 5-0; B. R. O'Brien 6-5; C. McKendree beat C. M. O'Hanlon 6-0; D. E. G. 6-1; J. D. Ward beat A. Benson, 6-0; F. Newman, 6-2; G. Graddon beat D. Scabree beat E. Somerville, 7-1; 4-0; J. M. G. Walsh beat G. Jacobus, 6-0; I. J. C. Clancy beat M. Rollins, 6-0; L. W. A. Hollington beat R. L. O. Bridgman, 6-1; N. T. D. Nation beat R. G. Patterson, 6-5.

SECOND ROUND: H. R. Angus beat Kanawha 6-1; B. R. O'Brien beat Stonefield 6-0; McKendree beat Graddon, 6-0; D. E. G. Dean beat Clench, 6-2; F. Newman beat Lovell beat Naum.

Estoril, March 8.—Markku Aleen, of Finland, took the lead in the world championship by winning the Car Rally of Portugal for the fourth time here last night. Aleen had taken the lead in his Fiat 1300 Abarth when the early pacesetter, Hannu Mikkola, drove his Audi Quattro to a standstill on the third stage and Ari Vaaanen crashed his Ford Escort. He finished more than nine minutes ahead of Henry Toivonen, the winner of last year's RAC Rally.

Alen gained a two-second lead over Tolonen, but when Tolonen went off the road after a twisting, treacherous mishap, he opened up a comfortable margin. The victory gave Alen 24 points and a one-point lead over Tolonen in the world championship, which Alen previously won in 1975, 1977 and 1978.

Michèle Mouton, of France, at the wheel of the other works Audi Quattro, became the first woman to win a timed section this rally, edging out Tolonen on Friday and six times faster on Saturday, when Alen was driving cautiously to preserve his lead.

RESULTS: 1. M. Allen & J. Kyrkkanen (Finland), Fiat 131, 4hr 27min 26sec
2. H. Toivonen (Finland) & F. Kasper (GER), Talbot Lotus, 0min behind
3. B. Waldegard & J. Thorezellus (Sweden), Toyota, 17:21
4. M. Monton (France) & F. Pignatelli (ITA), Audi, 23:31
5. J. G. Grando (GB), Datsun, 20:03
6. F. Grenouillet & J. Todt (France), Talbot Lotus, 49:53

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1. Allen & Kyrkkanen, 25 points
2. Toivonen & Kasper, 23
3. Waldegard & Thorezellus, 4
4. Kullang (Sweden), 2
5. Mikko (Finland), J. Ragnom (France), 20

MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Fiat, 26
2. Talbot Lotus, 15
3. Open, 25
4. Renault, 18
5. Toyota, Ford, 15

	Depth (cm)	U	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)
Andromart	130	340	Good	Heavy Fair	Föhn
Slush on lower slopes	180	240			
Avoriaz	180	240	Fair	Heavy Fair	Rain
Heavy, slushy conditions	80	330	Good	Varied Open	Cloud
Courmayeur	110	230	Good	Varied Good	Cloud
Wet snow on lower slopes	115	230	Good	Varied Good	Cloud
Nosges	190	335	Fair	Heavy Fair	Rain
New snow on good base	190	335	Fair	Heavy Fair	Rain
La Plagne	90	300	Fair	Heavy Fair	Rain
Sudden thaw, wet snow	110	470	Good	Good Good	Cloud
Mürren	110	470	Good	Good Good	Cloud
Slush on lower slopes	110	470	Good	Good Good	Cloud
St Anton	110	470	Good	Good Good	Cloud
High runs excellent	110	160	Good	Good Good	Cloud
Seefeld	110	160	Good	Good Good	Cloud
Wet snow on lower slopes	165	255	Fair	Heavy Fair	Rain
Tignes	165	255	Fair	Heavy Fair	Rain
Slush on most slopes					

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Six Club of the Alps, the letters *l* and *u* refer to lower slopes and *u* to upper slopes. The Great Britain *l* refers to lower slopes and *u* to upper slopes. The




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Profile of a royal look-alike Italy, Germany, a world cruise, one's diary is so full

The telephone went early a couple of weeks ago: it was Jeanette Charles (the lady who makes a fortune out of being a look-alike, she is in fact in no uncertain way, the Queen's double). Ms Charles sounded impatient.

"Look, I've been filming all week," she said with a great deal of irritability, "and I'm off to Italy to do a TV spectacular and I've not got much time... what can I do for you?" "I'm not sure," I replied sleepily, "you phoned me." "Oh yes, well I think someone from my management had seen your feature in the Express about Richard Todd, lovely man, and they suggested I call you to invite you down to have a look at my home and take some pictures of me and..."

"Give me the address," I pretend to search for a pen. Jeanette gives me the address. It is a detached country house, second on the right past the war memorial, by the pub, now what's the name of the pub, you must know it John... She complained about all these wretched reporters and press who never stop hounding her. One ghastly reporter, "cheeky beggar" had even expected her 19-year-old son to dress up in polo gear. "I ask you—I mean some people will stop at nothing..."

What did she think of the Genuine Article who recently had strong words with the press corps, who stalked her and her family in the grounds at Sandringham? "Yes, indeed, dreadful isn't it. You see I'm a Royalist. I don't care for the way the Royal family is being treated..."

Did she think about the consequences to the British Royal family since she specialized in TV commercials and programmes that would in all probability depict the Queen of England in bad light thereby capitalizing on someone who could not answer back. Hardly cricket?

"But I go as me: Jeanette Charles, when I'm abroad I do a lot of chat shows, not only in Italy but in France and Germany too; I'm me, not the Queen."

"But you do profess to be the Queen's look-alike and you concede, would you not, that since you dress up in all the regalia complete with tiara and blue sash, what's that the order of by the way?"

"The Garter I think. John I do think we can perhaps go into all this when we meet, I'll give you a ring when I get back next week."

The following week the phone went: it was the indomitable Ms Charles. Her diary it seemed was as full as ever but would I care to come next Wednesday?

Yes I could and how had she enjoyed Italy?

Wonderful but I had to remember that she was not the Queen. "I've got to fly to Germany fairly soon. I've got a booking pencilled in for next week, and then I've got this world cruise..." Finally I am asked if I'm definitely coming next Wednesday which seems to be the one and only time that Ms Charles can fit me in.

She tells me that she is learning Italian and German. Show business can be a real bore at times and at every possible moment she brushes up her Italian.

Did she not feel that it might not be inconceivable for an Italian peasant, say, down in rural southern Italy when viewing the box genuinely to mistake her for the real Queen of England?

"Well let's talk about that next Wednesday."

Wednesday arrives all too quickly. I can't face it. I panic. I get my secretary to phone Uglies Enterprises, just one of the agencies who represent Ms Charles. I listen entranced on the extension. "So sorry but Mr Oliver will have to cancel Jeanette Charles' kind invitation to pay her

a visit today..." "We have a lot of other look-alikes" comes back the dulcet tones of an Uglies booker. "We have a Queen Mum and, just in, a Lady Di."

"A Lady Diana?" I break in, the news of the engagement to Prince Charles has only just broken. Some enterprising lady has been very smart and very quick. "Yes, Mr Oliver (how does she know it's me?) She's a very lovely girl called Diana (wouldn't you know it?) Goodman. Perhaps you would care to meet her, she's already been interviewed by NBC for the States and Thames which is due to go out on Monday."

"Really?" "Yes, we're looking for a look-alike for Prince Charles now, and Prince Philip—we can turn a few people into new people."

I am at a loss for what to say while I try to discern whether there is any innuendo implied. But there is no stopping this girl. She wants to send me a catalogue, I think about giving her a false name. Where should she send it, she asks me. But then I realize I can hardly give her a false name since she knows who I am. How, I ask myself, is she so sure when everyone else around her and in her catalogue does not seem so sure who they are. I put down the phone.

"All the world is a comic strip. And men and women merely look-alikes in it."

Oh boy. I make for the bathroom and try not to look in the mirror. I mean you just never know these days.

In any event I decide that's it. At least I've been spared something. I certainly would in no circumstances now be paying a visit to Jeanette Charles: and as for Diana Goodman, if she was anything like the genuine article, well now there's a thought...

John Oliver



The not-the-Queen.

The right to rights inside the prison gates

A campaign starts today for prisoners' rights. It might at first seem just another bandwagon for those who think prisons should be more a bed of roses than a bed of nails. But the campaign is only indirectly concerned with conditions. Behind it is the belief that prisons should not be oases removed from the law and judicature of this country. When the prison gates close, it is held, a prisoner should not lose the protection of the law along with his freedom.

A private member's Bill is published by Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Wandsworth, Battersea South, with the aim, among other things, of making the Prison Act, 1952, and the Prison Rules under it enforceable by law.

Last year a prisoner who had been kept in a "special control unit" for troublemakers—now disbanded—tried unsuccessfully to sue the Home Office for false imprisonment. The judge found the Prison Rules had been breached but that the courts had no power to interfere; the rules were a matter for the Home Office. Critics saw the judgment as a licence for the Home Office to break the rules with impunity.

But in 1978 in a case brought against the Board of Visitors of Hull Prison by some prisoners backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Court of Appeal held the Board must act according to the rules of natural justice. If it does not, the prisoner may apply to the courts for a judicial review.

"The rights of a citizen, however, circumscribed by a penal sentence or otherwise, must always be the concern of

the courts unless their jurisdiction was clearly excluded from a statute."

Other gains for prisoners' rights include the 1975 European Court of Human Rights ruling against the Government for refusing a prisoner access to a solicitor. And the European Commission of Human Rights is expected shortly to find the Government in breach of the human rights convention for censoring prisoners' mail and for refusing to allow prisoners to marry. Official rules have now been modified on both issues.

But none of this is consolidated in British law as the Court of Appeal ruling on the Board of Visitors case could at a future date be overruled by the Lords. The Prisoners' Rights Bill would not only make the Prison Rules enforceable by law but give prisoners a right to know the Prison Rules; have legal advice in confidence; be represented at disciplinary hearings; know their category (eg "A") and appeal against it; have greater freedom of correspondence and the right to vote.

It would also write into the same statute the protections in the Bill of Rights 1688 against cruel and unusual punishment and in the European Convention against torture, cruel or degrading treatment.

How much support it attracts depends on acceptance of the view that prisoners are not only privileged but also rights-bearing. But in turn comes down to whether there should be a system within our system of justice which is a law unto itself.

Frances Gibb

View from Westminster

Monetary policy under fire

Whether the Select Committee Report on Monetary Policy has any immediate impact on policy now depends on the Cabinet and Tory backbenchers. The outline of the argument in the report is straightforward. The different schools of thought on monetarism are distinguished. The treatment by each school of the major questions in monetary policy are considered in the light of the evidence in support of them, and of the policy implications.

The report shows that tight money works primarily by damaging competitiveness since foreign exchange markets respond more quickly than do domestic wages and prices. The Government has chosen to tackle inflation in the United Kingdom by monetary policy alone. From Treasury simulations on the Treasury model it appears that for each one per cent by which tightening money reduces the on-going rate of inflation, there is a loss of output of about 4 per cent of one year's national income, and unemployment for one year of 2½ per cent of the work force.

The loss is concentrated heavily in manufacturing industry. The effect to be expected from the Government's medium-term financial strategy, and now emerging, is a reduction of about 8 per cent in the on-going rate of inflation—but at the cost of losing £60 thousand million of output with 5m man-years of unemployment.

The difficulties encountered since July in controlling the money supply and implementing the strategy lie not in any technical failures in the Bank of England, but in inherent incompatibilities between monetary targets, competitive banking and freedom from foreign exchange control in an open economy, which cannot be remedied by monetary base control.

The committee has given more serious and sustained attention to monetary policy than has the Cabinet. There can be no question of disloyalty or

weakness on the part of the Tory majority on the committee.

The Government may now decide not to continue its medium-term financial strategy as originally conceived. The money supply targets have been well and truly breached, manufacturing industry has been made uncompetitive, and unemployment is causing great distress. Yet the Prime Minister says there is no alternative. The committee offers not just one alternative, but a range of alternatives, among which the policy that best reflects its own priorities on final objectives.

The Prime Minister exaggerates. She speaks of suitcase money. Then seeing no ground between that and 2.5m unemployed, she chooses the latter. Given the Government's commitments and priorities, it would be reasonable for them now to accept cyclical variations in money supply as well as in public sector rates and to reduce the exchange rate, if necessary at the cost of money supply targets; and so to bring about some measure of reflation.

At the beginning of the inquiry, the committee sent a questionnaire to witnesses plainly drafted to draw out the debate which has been going on at a technical level. Treasury ministers chose to respond with a superficial memorandum with not a single figure or statistic in reply to the detailed questions. The Bank of England and most other witnesses took the questionnaire more seriously, uncovering the grave doubts about the cost effectiveness and practicality of the Government's policy which emerge in the report. When eventually the Treasury did respond with a memorandum on the background of the Government's economic policy, it became apparent that they had no defence to offer.

From the beginning the committee had set the level of its work by seeking as advisers and witnesses the prime researchers and operators.

Among the seven advisers who helped with the monetary policy inquiry, Professor Marcus Miller made the outstanding contribution to the analysis. However, in working with prime researchers it is necessary to draw them not only from different schools of thought, but also from the different disciplines needed: the economic theorist who offers descriptions of behaviour; the econometrician with the techniques to build and test models that fit the data and test the theory; the economy watcher with his finger on the pulse; the policy designer who can put together the model and the current situation to produce a good policy reflecting the priorities of the policy maker; and the man who knows the institutions.

With the complexity of economic issues, the Treasury, National Institute and London Business School models emerged as important tools to be used critically in designing and testing policies.

To rely on the accuracy of forecasts of a few aggregates to discriminate between models and theories is to accept a slow learning rate that may never catch up with changes in the economy and in the models. So uncritical are customers for forecasts in the press, and in industry and the City, that lack of testing makes markets rather vulnerable to fashions in economic thought.

The report is open to criticism, but it marks at least a start on a more disciplined design and testing of policy than has been customary in the reckless atmosphere of British economic debate.

Jeremy Bray

The author is Labour MP for Matherwell and a member of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

Out, damned spot

Every magazine for teenagers carries pages of advertisements for acne lotions and skin clearing creams and gels, often worded to play on adolescents' shame and misery about their spots. The extent of the misery is shown by the amount of money schoolchildren are prepared to spend on these remedies—partly because the advice offered by their parents (and too often by their doctors) is that acne is normal and that they will grow out of it.

Certainly acne usually worsens from 14 to 17 years and then gets better; but a few young adults are left with permanent disfiguring scars and every adolescent with his or her first spots is naturally anxious to find a way of preventing the condition getting worse. More important for the individual victims is some hope of rapid improvement: they want clear skin next week, not next year.

Until recently the tide of parent remedies was evidence that medicine had very little to offer. Doctors looked wise and talked about avoiding chocolate and pork and advised fresh air and exercise, exposure of the skin to sunlight, and the use of ultraviolet lamps. They prescribed all manner of lotions and creams, mostly based on sulphur, resorcinol, and salicylic acid. When none of this well-intentioned treatment halted the progress of severe acne they sometimes resorted to the use

of X-rays or some form of surgery.

Nowadays something better can be offered, especially in severe cases. Research has improved medical understanding of the causes of acne, and specific, effective treatments are at last available. In addition to the well-known hormonal influences and the overactivity of the skin glands that produce greasy sebum, two other factors are important: colonization of the skin with bacteria, especially *Propionibacterium acnes*, and the formation in the skin of chemicals that promote inflammation.

Modern treatment is based on reducing the overactivity of the skin glands, attacking the bacteria, and blocking or modifying the chemical processes that cause inflammation.

Unfortunately, treating acne has not become simple and straightforward overnight. The vigour of the treatment needs to be balanced against the severity of the skin disorder. The drugs needed for severe, chronic acne with deep-seated cysts in the skin have side effects making them unjustifiable for most patients; and many teenagers with mild acne will probably need no medical treatment at all.

The simplest treatment is a lotion based on either benzoyl peroxide or retinoic acid. Both drugs cause inflammation of the skin, with redness and scal-

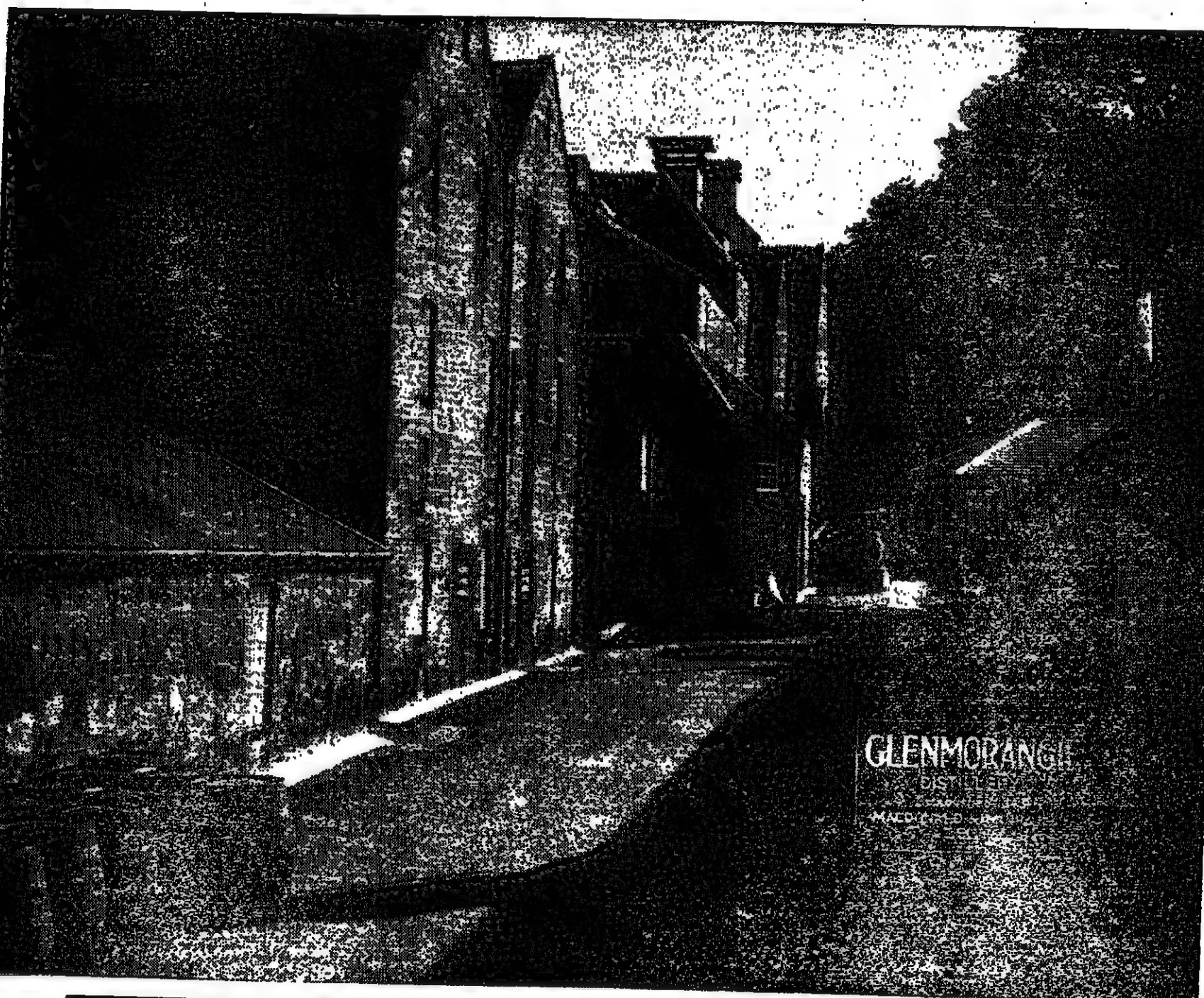
ing, but after a few weeks they halt the development of new spots and so reduce the overall severity of the skin damage.

More persistent acne is best treated by a combination of a lotion and antibiotics to suppress skin bacteria. Two 100mg tablets of tetracycline are taken daily for six months; repeated courses may need to be given. This combination will deal with 80 per cent of acne sufferers. The remainder will need treatment to reduce the amount of sebum formed in their skin glands. Treatment with oral contraceptives may be effective; or an antagonist to the androgen hormones may be used. The most effective drug, however, seems likely to be 13-cis-retinoic acid, a new variant of the retinoic acid found in many acne lotions.

The drug reduces by as much as 90 per cent the amount of sebum formed in the skin and changes its chemical composition, and within a few weeks the skin begins to clear. There are, however, side effects: the nose becomes dry and minor nosebleeds may be a problem, while the skin becomes inflamed and fragile. Treatment cannot be continued indefinitely, but the benefits persist for as long as 20 months after the drug is stopped. Research trials are still in progress, and 13-cis-retinoic acid is not yet available on prescription.

Dr Tony Smith

Medical Correspondent



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GREEN IS NEUTRAL

The Rev Ian Paisley is not the only Irish politician who wants to know exactly what is going on in the Anglo-Irish studies initiated by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey. In the Republic opposition leaders and some of Mr Haughey's own Fianna Fáil party are jumping about suggestions that Ireland's neutrality falls under the rubric of "the totality of relations" within these "islands" which defines the scope of the studies. Nothing has been said that you can quite get hold of, but enough coming from both sides, to alert suspicious minds. Tomorrow in the Dail Mr Haughey has an opportunity to explain.

Ireland's neutrality has been a fact of its life since the 1930s and has been tempered, you might say, in the furnace of others' war. The Irish-sounding question—whose side are you neutral on?—is still pertinent. As the Irish government sees it, the Republic is not ideologically, only militarily neutral. It has not joined the ranks of the non-aligned states. It is to be numbered among the nations of the West and specifically of western Europe, but as a non-combatant (before combat anyway). Membership of the European Community, which is of high importance to Ireland, entails a political alignment, and it is freely conceded in Dublin that if the time comes when the EEC develops a defence dimension Ireland will have to go along with it. This distinguishes the Irish brand of neutrality from that of other European neutrals, Sweden, for example, considered joining the Community but decided that the political and possible defence implications of membership would not be compatible with her neutrality.

The Republic's role in international affairs and in the United

Nations especially, is partly shaped by its position of neutrality. It enjoys a modest prominence on that stage which it would not have acquired by being a tail-end member of Nato. The Irish by and large bask in the status of being neutral. It fortifies the feeling of independence. It perhaps saves something on defence expenditure, already swollen by the calls of external security. And nuclear neutrality is felt by some to give the Republic's citizens a better chance of escaping the worst catastrophe of all.

These considerations, as well as a thread of ideological non-alignment found in the Irish Labour Party, contribute to the general sentiment in favour of neutrality and account for the disturbance on the surface of Dublin politics now that it appears to be called in question. But of course the historical reason for Irish neutrality is the relation to Britain and her allies is that Ireland has not finally settled its score with its neighbour and will not have so long as the island is partitioned. What Mr Haughey's questions want to know is whether neutrality is a counter in a possible deal concerning Irish unity.

Mr Sile de Valera, a member of the Dail and Mr Haughey's adjutant in the party coup that brought him to the top fifteen months ago, has indicated her approval for that possibility. The creation of a united Ireland, she said the other day, could lead to a reappraisal of Ireland's place in the defence of the West. When the proposition was put in concrete form to her grandfather in the summer of 1940 he rejected it. The Chamberlain Government tried very hard to get de Valera to agree to British naval access to Irish ports and

common defence planning to repel a possible Nazi attack on Ireland in exchange for a British declaration in favour of Irish unity and the immediate establishment of a body to work out a new constitution. (All this with-out consulting Ulster.) De Valera said no—because he thought the Germans would win, the War Cabinet believed: because he did not trust Britain to deliver Ulster, Irish historians conclude. At any rate that piece of history suggests that Ireland will not better its neutrality with Britain before it has gained the essentials of national unity.

Britain's interest in the matter is rather less acute. There is more than one opinion about the value of an Irish defensive alliance—as distinct from co-operation in internal security. The extra reach air and naval forces would get from access to the territory of the Republic remains an important factor in the defence of the western approaches—depending, however, on whether it is that sort of war for which precautions need to be taken. The soil of Northern Ireland anyway offers a partial substitute, as before.

Britain's other interest in this connection is that Ireland should not come under hostile influence as a potential base for attack or subversion. That, of course, would be the evolution of a peacefully united Ireland in membership of Nato. But since the spectre disturbs nobody's sleep it is not likely to be given a seat at the Anglo-Irish conference table. Mrs Thatcher's dismissive reply when asked on leaving Northern Ireland last week if a defence agreement was on the agenda probably reflects a lack of urgency regarding the matter in London.

THE POLISH BARGAIN AT RISK

The Polish authorities seem to be losing their touch. They have chosen an extraordinarily bad moment to revive harassment of dissidents and members of Solidarity. They are endangering their fragile understanding with the unions. They are risking a new wave of strikes. They are weakening their case with western governments and bankers, who could well have second thoughts about pumping still more money into Poland if the Polish government seems intent on blowing the place up.

When General Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, asked for three months of industrial peace from February 12 he said he would use the time to engage in the broadest possible dialogue with the unions. He was offering a sort of bargain, though he did not put it that way. He was saying that, if the unions would hold off, the government would work in good faith towards implementing the agreements reached with them. The unions have kept their side of the bargain. They have called no strikes and have been largely successful in holding down constantly simmering pressure for wildcat strikes. On one level the government has also kept its side of the bargain by continuing to negotiate.

On another level something else is now happening. Mr Jacek Kuron, of the social self-defence committee KOR, has been taken into custody for a few hours and

warned that the long-standing investigation against him is being broadened to include the possibility of more serious charges. The nationalist group around Mr Moculski, who has been in detention for some time, has been formally charged with attempting the violent overthrow of the system. A well-known reformer has been expelled from the party. And several members of Solidarity have been sacked from jobs in Lodz.

Probably the Polish party leaders were pushed towards these moves during the party congress in Moscow last week. The communiqué indicates that there was some frank speaking. It is also possible, however, that some people in the Polish apparatus took their cue straight from Moscow without waiting to consult the Prime Minister. If so, they are moving on to dangerous ground. The leaders of Solidarity are extremely sensitive to any sign that the security apparatus is being unleashed. They know that if they allow the process to start it will eventually reach them. This is why they have to take some notice of the fate of Mr Moculski although they think his demand for Polish independence is dangerously irresponsible.

Mr Kuron is in another category. He is a member of Solidarity and close to Mr Lech Walesa, its leader. To put him on trial would be a direct chal-

lenge to Mr Walesa. It would also be extraordinarily foolish because whatever anyone thinks of his ideas he has been using his influence to moderate demands and discourage strikes even to the extent of being called a traitor by angry students.

This points to the most immediate danger now facing Poland, which is not that the Russians will suddenly invade but that the sensitivity with which the present leadership has been handling the situation will falter because of internal disagreements and rash moves by rivals for power. Then things could fall apart quickly, for there really is no alternative to the present policy of compromise.

Poland has passed a point of no return and entered a new stage. There is only one way a regime can regain authority and that is by earning it through genuine attempts to build on the present fragile consensus. The old methods cannot be revived without inviting disaster and frightening away the foreign money which Poland so badly needs. As Professor Richard Portes put it in his study of Polish indebtedness for the Royal Institute of International Affairs: "Re-scheduling the debt offers real promise only if the party and Solidarity, with the Church in attendance, can reach a more or less explicit accord on a serious economic and political stabilization programme."

UK power to decide for Canada

From Professor O. Hood Phillips, QC
Sir, Lord Alport in his letter today (March 5) suggests that the United Kingdom Government should now advise the Canadian Government that it intends to repeal section 7 of the Statute of Westminster before the end of the parliamentary session. Such an amendment to the Statute of Westminster made by the United Kingdom Parliament, however, would be a breach of established and declared constitutional convention if it were enacted otherwise than at the request, and with the consent of both Houses of the Parliament of Canada.

Incidentally section 7(2), extending section 2 to the Canadian Provinces and their legislatures, would need to be retained.

O. HOOD PHILLIPS,
24 Heaton Drive,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.

From Mr Leslie Millin
Sir, For those of us born in the United Kingdom but of Canadian citizenship, current developments regarding the Canadian Constitution are particularly painful. Conversations with intelligent, perceptive friends in the United Kingdom lead me to feel that many Britons do not fully appreciate the problems of the Canadian people. In Western Canada, however, well-intended, to block or alter whatever request is put forward by the Parliament of Canada.

Anything other than speedy passage of the Bill would be a serious blow to the Canadian people. The Canadian people object to what Canadian legislators do on their behalf; they will be able to have their say in a general election. That is their right and we should not deny it.

From Mr Tom McNally, MP for South, South
Sir, I have a growing foreboding that the British Parliament is going to make a complete ass of itself over the matter of the Canadian Constitution. Indeed, I have already heard a colleague with impeccable radical credentials talking in all seriousness about "the responsibilities of the imperial Parliament". As the Labour Party knows to its cost, politicians find a good constitutional "wangle" well-nigh irresistible. However, I believe we would do grave damage to relations with Canada if the British Parliament started to delude itself that it has responsibilities beyond acquiescing to a legitimate request for co-operation from a sister sovereign parliament. To do otherwise would be to set us on a road fraught with danger.

House of Commons.

Shape of the slump

From Mr R. H. Price
Sir, Your Economics Editor writes (March 6) that the shape of the slump, under a heading similar to that of the "Economic Outlook" column of the February issue of *Chief Executive*. I was not entirely unassociated with the preparation of the latter article, the course of writing it, the beginning of the year, I considered whether we were seeing not an L-cycle but rather a side view of a dimly lit flight of stairs. This was excessively cynical, so too, having been told that the shape of the slump is reference now to an L-cycle.

Assuming no violent change in the Government's fiscal stance in the Budget we will very shortly have evidence of the beginning of rather slow growth of output. The initial engine of this hesitant upturn will be the end of destocking in much of industry, mildly supported by higher consumer spending, itself partly sustained by a lower personal savings rate.

Staying on course
From Mr Roy Whitney, MP for Conservative
Sir, Geoffrey Smith is certainly right to say (article, February 27) that our post-war failures stem from a mix of economic and political conditions which is unique and which includes unusually powerful trade unions, an exceptionally large public sector and a weakness in social cohesion and political authority.

Contempt proposals
From Miss Harriet Horman
Sir, If the Contempt of Court Bill reaches the statute book in its present form, it will be a disaster. It will be a disaster because it will be a disaster to the public interest. It will be a disaster because it will be a disaster to the public interest. It will be a disaster because it will be a disaster to the public interest.

From Mr Brian Crozier
Sir, The danger of Soviet imperialism has been a policy theme for the unambiguous terms by President Reagan, his Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher. At this time of danger, the only sensible guiding principle of foreign policy is, whether a course of action is likely to advance or impede Soviet aims.

From Mr Louis Allen
Sir, David Watts's interesting piece (March 3) on the Singapore war in 1942 says that the Seneca Development Corporation has been trying to find a photograph of General Percival showing his expression and that the photograph they have was taken by a general Japanese soldier to spare General Percival's blushes.

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Effect of charges on planning schemes

From the Secretary General of the Royal Town Planning Institute and others
Sir, The proposed introduction of charges for planning applications is a new source of local government revenue, was opposed by bodies representing the professions, industry, and community groups on the principle that the planning system exists for the benefit of the community as a whole rather than the applicant.

From Mr Louis Allen
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(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

* Ex dividend, a Ex all, b Forecast dividend, c Current price, d Interim payment passed, f Price at suspension, g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment, h Bid company, i Pre-market figures, j Forecast earnings, k Capital distribution, l Ex rights, m Ex tip or sharesplit, n Tax free, o Price adjusted for late dealings, ** Significant data.

Consultancy in the recession

Martin Vandersteen, this year's chairman of the Management Consultants Association, reckons that the nature of the business has changed substantially since he came into it 20 years ago.

Time was when the management consultant was a creature from a strange planet, thinking and talking in a language quite different to that of the earth-bound industrialists and traders who employed his services when driven to it by dire necessity. Now, he says, clients are quite likely to use their management consultants as a pool of labour, highly trained but basically complementary to their existing staff, on which they can draw when the pressure is on.

That, he thinks, reflects the fact that clients have become very much more sophisticated in their approach, so that they now employ internally the sort of techniques that were peculiar to the management consultant 20 years ago. And, because companies are now reluctant to employ staff to cope with peak periods when it might be difficult and/or expensive to shed them when demand declines, it is a trend he can see accelerating.

Not that the old-style, trouble-shooting consultant has passed into oblivion. On the contrary, he is almost as much in demand as ever, though the nature of his client has changed. According to members of the Management Consultants Association, demand has held up surprisingly well over the past year, and while the number of consultants may have declined slightly—by perhaps 5 per cent, according to Mr Vandersteen—this is largely a result of under-recruiting. Certainly, he says, there has been nothing remotely like the shakeout of 1972.

The worst of the downturn has been overseas, reflecting the impact of a stronger pound. In the United Kingdom, of course, demand from manufacturing industry is in some respects well down, because attempts to improve production



Mr Martin Vandersteen, chairman of the Management Consultants Association; providing a highly trained pool of labour.

and marketing have been postponed, and large-scale construction projects that might otherwise have required appraisal have simply been shelved.

As against this, however, there is if anything a stronger demand for consultancy on ways to improve efficiency and cash flow, and data processing work is "resource bound"—that is there simply are not enough trained consultants to undertake the work on offer. Faced with rapidly deteriorating conditions, British management seems to have been converted wholesale to the view that more rapid access to more information cannot be a bad thing.

Demand for consultancy services from the few relatively healthy sectors of the British economy—oil and gas, the financial sector, and distribution and retailing—is holding up well.

Demand from central government is down, but from local government, curiously enough, it is well up—well up because the local authorities are desperate for methods of improving their financial controls, and of

proving to their ratepayers that they are providing value for money.

So one way and another the management consultants seem to be coming through the recession in reasonable shape.

All of which is well enough for the consultants, but what about British industry? Mr Vandersteen admits that consultancy is a "maturing profession", no longer in a phase of rampant growth.

Within his own firm, some 60 per cent of work comes from clients whom the firm has served before, and another 20 per cent from companies to which employees of Arthur Andersen itself, or of one of its previous clients have moved. That can be taken as evidence that Arthur Andersen has many satisfied clients. It can also be taken as evidence that the firm is selling to the converted.

Likewise, the fact that members of the Management Consultants Association have had 95 of *The Times* top 100 companies among their clients may be impressive, but it raises a

great many questions about the smaller companies that either never have used consultants at all or have used them and come away disillusioned by the experience.

It is partly with a view to assisting such potential clients that the Management Consultants Association has this year produced its first directory of member firms and their services to clients. This is large, highly informative and available free from the MCA.

In addition to an introductory section on client-consultant relations—covering such things as the association's code of professional practice, and some sensible advice on selecting a consultant—it has a section describing the scope of members' services in general, and another giving a general description of each member firm (tends to be a bit dry and gives some idea of size and age), a list of the activities it undertakes (full and useful), and a selection of "illustrative engagements".

Of course there are also

addresses, telephone numbers, the names of key personnel and an indication of the firm's overseas connections. Anyone looking for a consultancy firm should be able to get a good idea of which firms are likely to be interested and interesting from this (failing which the association's executive director will point them in the direction of three or four of them).

One problem, of course, is that not every reputable consultancy firm is a member of the MCA (so far there are 25, and their ranks are swelling by about two a year). The membership qualifications are pretty rigorous (members must have been in practice for at least five years in the United Kingdom; the partners or directors must have had at least ten years' experience; the average length of service with the firm of the whole consulting staff must be at least three years, and at least 25 per cent of the staff must have served with the same firm for five years; and so on).

For this Mr Vandersteen apologizes not at all. It may deter the young hopefuls but it also keeps out the fly-by-nights and the association's executive director runs an annual check to see that members continue to conform.

Given that it is the only association of established member organizations of Rural Voice, an alliance of national organizations representing rural communities, about the future of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA).

It is now 20 months since the Government commissioned, and over 12 months since it received the report of a review by civil servants of the status of the Development Commission and its subsidiary COSIRA. This report has not been published, nor has there been any public consultation on the subject. Now, however, there is a strong feeling that COSIRA should be merged into a larger unit, serving small businesses in both urban and rural areas, under the auspices not of the Development Commission and the Department of the Environment, but of the Department of Industry.

We quite understand that urban areas may need a service not unlike that which COSIRA has so effectively given to the countryside. But we are extremely concerned that COSIRA's specialist knowledge

Reassessing the value of coal

From the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge

Sir, This is the moment to press government, industry and commerce to use coal instead of oil and gas. There are many reasons—coal is cheaper than oil or gas per therm of heating value, we have plenty of it and so does the world, it is easier and more rewarding to export our oil (and gas) than our coal, alternatively such a policy permits us, if we wish, to reduce the rate of depletion of our oil and gas reserves.

But the most important reason stems from the conclusion of the World Energy Council that the world supply of petroleum will never again exceed that of 1970. Whether this is literally true or not, the peak of petroleum and natural gas production and its decline are clearly visible.

The Department of Energy has been dutifully trying to signal this fact to consumers by

its pricing policy, and no doubt hoping that industry and others will conserve energy and switch to coal in plenty of time so that their future prosperity will not be prejudiced by energy problems.

Many of us need to wipe the cobwebs off our picture of the coal stakeholder, because modern methods make it possible to burn coal cleanly and with little labour. The drawbacks to the rapid substitution of coal for oil and gas appear to be lack of cash for the conversion of equipment and uncertainty about future regulations and supply. Pay-back periods are encouraging although not dramatic.

Government should look again at the possibility of giving financial aid towards substitution, without having the taxpayer excessively reward those who will save money by switching to coal. The chemical industry and others who are complaining of competition from countries whose governments have an ostrich-like atti-

tude to energy prices, or perhaps dirigisme, should be expected to adapt to a new situation.

Uncertainty might lessen if the Government itself gave a lead. Just as Property Services Agency the DBSS showed what can be done in energy conservation, they should now be able to give a similar lead in use of coal. Local authorities should also be advised to encourage others. To avert their own large users of coal, they should be encouraged to supply in a major task of the coal industry, but gas and oil supply might be more flexible in attitude to the provision of emergency supplies.

Government energy policy based on conservation, and nuclear. It is time it be to promote the use of much more seriously. Yours faithfully, R. H. W. RUMSEY, Churchill College, Cambridge CB3 0DS. March 4.

Rural small industries

From Mr Michael Dover

Sir, I am writing to express the concern of the small member organizations of Rural Voice, an alliance of national organizations representing rural communities, about the future of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA).

It is now 20 months since the Government commissioned, and over 12 months since it received the report of a review by civil servants of the status of the Development Commission and its subsidiary COSIRA. This report has not been published, nor has there been any public consultation on the subject.

Now, however, there is a strong feeling that COSIRA should be merged into a larger unit, serving small businesses in both urban and rural areas, under the auspices not of the Development Commission and the Department of the Environment, but of the Department of Industry.

We quite understand that urban areas may need a service not unlike that which COSIRA has so effectively given to the countryside. But we are extremely concerned that COSIRA's specialist knowledge

of the needs of rural businesses, and its close links to hundreds of such businesses on the ground, should not be weakened. Indeed, we believe the present economic difficulties, and the vital importance of small firms of all kinds to the health of the rural economy, call for the continued extension of COSIRA's remit to cover shops, garages and other small enterprises in rural areas. More than the close links between COSIRA and the Development Commission need to be strengthened to their mutual benefit, rather than weakened.

For this reason, we should prefer to see COSIRA remain as a separate unit, with extended remit and resources. If, on the other hand, it is linked with a wider body, we urge that it remains semi-autonomous as a rural organization with undiluted expertise and resources, a clear rural base and functioning as an executive arm of the Development Commission.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL DOVER, Chairman, Rural Voice, 26 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3HU. February 27.

The 'unfair' company car perk

From Mr R. T. W. Rumsey

Sir, A heading on the *Management* page of the *Financial Times* (March 2) reads "How fair is the company car?"

In truth it is completely fair. How it ever came to be viewed as a perk complete baffles me. The provision of a company car, with its insurance and maintenance has always been seen as part of the salary of the person to whom a vehicle has been allocated. It is a cash part of his salary adjusted accordingly.

By fostering the principle of the company car, never taken into consideration when assessing the employee pension and as a result a "benefit" of this so-called perk has the certain knowledge that the employee's pension will be much less than he would have enjoyed had he received a salary which would have allowed him to provide his own vehicle together with the tax and running costs.

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Yours faithfully, R. T. W. RUMSEY, Eyecottwood Cottage, Rye, East Sussex. Gloucestershire, March 3.

Micro-chip to make the beds and darn socks

From Mr A. F. Bromige

Sir, Iain Murray, in his article "Gadgets without fear" (March 2), says that the micro-chip revolution promises to banish for ever the drudgery of domestic life and he seems surprised that a sample of housewives experienced some anxiety at being confronted with and being expected to operate a Prestel receiver, a home computer, a video-cassette recorder and a microwave oven.

It is not clear to this household operative how any of these gadgets reduce in the slightest, let alone banish, what some call drudgery. If the housewife could have seen some use in any of the four articles she was confronted with she would have been able to operate them as well as she can operate her cooker, washing machine or sewing machine.

If the manufacturer can design a micro-chip to make the beds and to take out the dead ashes of the fire in the morning, to clean the windows and darn the socks, to cut the sandwiches for the children's lunch and to make the cake and to walk the vacuum cleaner over all the floors, then he will be on a winner.

And Mr Murray, and the advertising agencies he mentions, will find the housewife will love to operate this wonder-machine in the kitchen. Until then she is wise to ignore the gadget society that we seem to be becoming.

Yours faithfully, A. F. BROMIGE, 17 Ridgeway, Friston, East Sussex BN20 0EZ.

this handicap, but I also cannot appreciate the need for the ever increasing complexity and multiplicity of functions of some of our household appliances.

I seem to recall that we welcomed the earlier models of clothes and dishwashing machines and of tumble driers because they had few programmes and no symbols. I wonder whether manufacturers appreciate that many women like to feel "in control" of their machines and like to adapt their functions to the family's needs and routines.

The advantage of a washing machine is that clothes can be soon back in use, but its advantage is reduced if one has to wait days to collect sufficient articles for a particular programme.

I have two electronic "marvels" in my kitchen: a vacuum and a tumbler drier—on which the symbols are so unintelligible that I need to have their meanings stuck to adjoining cupboards. Perhaps a man's symbol is a woman's mystery.

Your tumbler drier is a great improvement on the old one, it is much larger and is permanently vented to outside the house. However, it has a multiplicity of programmes (I think, eleven) of which I only use two: those for cottons and for manmade fibres. For the latter I have a choice as to whether or not I wish to iron my shirts and bed linen—surely most of us do?

Similarly, I am puzzled by another programme. This blows cold air to "remove unpleasant smells"—can any really remain after a machine wash?

I hope these comments will help manufacturers increase their understanding of housewives' needs.

Yours truly, ANN BROOKE, 13 Central Avenue, Eccleston Park, Prescot, Lancashire L34 2QL. March 2.

Currency difficulties at the banks

From Mr Gordon C. Fenton

Sir, I am Mr J. H. H. White (Letters, February 24) in words that the reason we are in a bit of a predicament is that we have a very close relationship with the banks.

Overseas due to the abolition of exchange control? May suggest he tries one of the following methods in the future instead of walking the streets to no avail.

(1) post equivalent value sterling bank notes; (2) post his own sterling cheque; (3) telephone request to own bankers to transfer a sterling cheque to a foreign currency via an international "Swiss" service. A transfer of this kind can be effected within hours.

All the above methods can be effected from one's domestic premises. Identification of the bank is not a problem. Identification of the bank is not a problem. Identification of the bank is not a problem.

Yours faithfully, GORDON C. FENTON, Alqueria la Rana, Susans Lane, Upchurch, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Buying a car from British Leyland

From Mr John L. Joly

Sir, Having heard so often of the difficulties facing British Leyland, I wonder whether the following exchange of telegrams between them and my company might perhaps provide some clue to their problems?

Ours of 6.2.81: "Wishing to order Mini station wagon for our London office. Any chance available second hand March."

On 11.2.81 we sent the following reminder and had an "on the spot" exchange.

Ours: "We would appreciate receiving your reply to our... Do not know for whom this message intended. I presented other one to Middle East director in Solihull last time. If you can please give me name and title try to get results for you."

Ours: "We wish to buy one of your cars in England. Would please reply to our original telegram."

Theirs: "This is Head Office here we have no cars. Please say what kind of car and I will pass it on."

Ours: "Our telegram to you of 6.2.81 stated that we wish to purchase Mini station wagon."

Theirs: "OK, will look it out and send it to personal exports."

in our Piccadilly office. They will assist I'm sure."

BL telexed us on 12.2.81: "Your telex has been referred to us at the tax-free sales centre in Piccadilly. Do you wish to purchase this vehicle for export?"

We replied on 13.2.81: "As stated in our original telex, we want it for our London office. Please could you quote price and delivery..."

BL replied on 13.2.81: "Have passed inquiry to 'and Co'. Please advise address London office for contact."

We replied on 14.2.81 that the office was not yet manned but would be as from March 16. We gave the address and telephone number, together with the name of our solicitors for reference purposes. We added: "But please place order for car now and advise cost and colour."

On 16.2.81 a different BL office telexed us: "Re: Mini station wagon—London office. Please clarify whether unit is required in UK (RED or LHD) or in Lebanon. Can then quote delivery price. Please reply by return."

On 17.2.81 we replied: "As already explained, the Mini station wagon we want is for

our London office therefore RHD."

On 19.2.81 we received from BL: "Your inquiry regarding Mini station wagon for export is being dealt with. We will advise you of the result of our enquiries."

"Cannot see how we can make it any clearer that we want right hand drive Mini for delivery and use by London office in UK. There is no question of exporting it. Do let us know this is now clear..."

More than two weeks have passed, considerable telex exchanges have been incurred and we have not heard a word of the result of the enquiry. I wonder how long it would have taken to secure a Renault 5 or a Fiat 127? The telex exchange is still going on in this company who had not British cars were frowned upon; nowadays British cars are sold as readily as under-stands only too easily.

Yours faithfully, JOHN L. JOLY, Henry Hald and Company, Beirut, Lebanon.

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How Sheraton found a new image in rural Denham

Like most modern hotel companies, Sheraton has its share of properties in which architectural ingenuity, be it expressed in a shopping precinct, ice rink or a 24-floor waterfall, is considered to be at least as important as the quality of room service.

Perhaps the most interesting property, however, is a building which acts as the base for its European, African and Middle East operations. Built between 1688 and 1701, Denham Place is a grade one listed building owned by the Allied Breweries pension fund and standing in its own 12-acre grounds in the sleepy Buckinghamshire village of Denham.

Once owned by Harry Saltzman, the famous film producer, Denham Place is a grade one listed building owned by the Allied Breweries pension fund and standing in its own 12-acre grounds in the sleepy Buckinghamshire village of Denham.

Mr John Kapiolotas, the division's president, who is a native of Akron, Ohio, is

known to interrupt business discussions in his palatial office to point out that a neighbour's horse has just wandered past the window.

Sheraton, of course, is owned by ITC, the huge American conglomerate with a reputation for hard dealing. The company is operating in one of the most hard-nosed and competitive areas of international business, and doing so from a location of evident luxury and peace, not exactly distant from London, but then again well off the beaten track in comparison to the location of its competitors.

One could be forgiven for asking: has Sheraton gone soft? The answer, apparently, is no. The location may be, but it is all part of a carefully-tailored image which the company is cultivating to promote the expansion of its luxury hotel business.

Until less than a year ago, the European division was based in ITC's European offices in Brussels. It was part and parcel of a large and conventional commercial operation, and one in which

notions of a move to the countryside were hardly likely to be countenanced out of purely aesthetic motives.

Mr Kapiolotas, who has seen the division grow from a mere two hotels in 1968 to 40 today, with another 14 under construction or in the planning stages, says: "As the properties we were opening increased our image started to develop. We wanted a new headquarters which would project the image to our investors and the world at large. A mansion fit the image."

Denham Place, which Sheraton has taken on a 25-year lease, fitted the bill. It was only 20 minutes from Heathrow airport, an important factor for an organization in which most of its executives complete many thousands of miles of travelling each year. And it was close enough to London for potential investors in Sheraton projects to visit. Indeed, the company's set programme for such visitors includes a tour of the mansion, where some 58 people work. Few felt to be impressed.

Moving a company from one country to another—Sheraton was originally based in Brussels—can cause difficulties even when the eventual destination is the pleasant Buckinghamshire countryside.

Mr Kapiolotas encountered only one serious objection from his senior staff, and took 28 people with it to Denham.

"I think that 90 per cent of our people were very positive about the move," says Mr Kapiolotas. "People realized what we were trying to do. Denham is impressive when our investors and principals arrive and I think it is in keeping with the type of hotels which we manage."

Staff costs were lower than they had been in Brussels, and the company was surprised by the calibre of employees they were able to recruit locally.

"One of the reasons might have been that a lot of capable white collar people would rather work with us here than travel into the West End. The day-to-day working environment is outstanding, and overall we have made considerable savings."

The quality of the decision-

making has improved, "or I would like to think so," Mr Kapiolotas adds swiftly. Staff relations have benefited and the group is happy with the way the local community has responded to the importation of a comparatively large number of jobs.

Local gardeners look after the grounds, the village pub is pleased with the extra business, and one Sheraton executive even found himself invited to a party at the home of Denham's most famous resident, the actor Sir John Mills.

It is too early for Sheraton to judge whether the move to the country was an unqualified success. Some parts of the building have yet to be fully converted to take their place in the building's new role.

Mr Kapiolotas concedes that the decision was very much an experiment. "I do not know of anyone else who has done anything like it."

David Hewson

Carrying on in the tradition of Dick Whittington

The Square Mile at the heart of the City of London is the most famous centre of commercial activity in the world. Tacitus, in the first century of the Roman occupation, called it "a town of the highest repute and a busy emporium for trade and traders."

Today the City means the Bank of England, Lloyds, the Baltic Exchange, Billingsgate fish market, Sunningdale, and the Guildhall, not to mention a megalopolis of £100 companies, legions of speculative investors, and the memory of one former Lord Mayor whose financial dealings would have landed him in court and he lived long enough for the legal process to take its course.

Folklore may have it that Britain's fortunes are truly on the wane when the ravens leave the Tower of London. It understands a few hundred yards outside the City's boundaries. But a more down-to-earth assessment of the nation's sickness would surely be signs of collapse within the Square Mile, and those are mercifully absent at the moment.

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is based in the City, exists to promote the business community of London and the South-East. It celebrates its centenary this year and intends to mark the event by sponsoring the City of London exhibition at the new £106m Barbican Centre next November.

Earl Jellicoe, the LCCI's president, says: "The events now being organized are a positive act of faith in the ability of Britain to recover its industrial and commercial muscle. Occasions of pride in past achievements are certainly on the centenary calendar, but the Chamber's main purpose is to lend its fullest support to a concerted effort to help to set the country on a course of new prosperity."

One sign that the City remains healthy is likely to be evident during the exhibition. The EEC is to sponsor a conference between its ten member states and the 60 nations of the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Group under the Lome Convention. The event will be one of the most important to be attracted to the Barbican Centre, the commercial side of the controversial bomb-site development, and with 200 delegates from 70 countries led by Mr Claude Chevestre, the EEC Commissioner for Development, is clearly something of a coup for the newly-opened venue.

Of the exhibition itself, Sir Ronald Gardner Thorpe, the Chamber's director, says that it will "demonstrate to industrial and business communities at home and abroad that the City retains its premier place in the world as a financial and commercial centre."

"It will serve to prove that this historic Square Mile's future is as bright as its past, and that London remains, in

fact, the heart of the world's financial and commercial life."

Quite how much of all this is absorbed by the visitors who pour out of the multiple exits of Bank underground station each morning and ease the City into life is a matter of some speculation. The workforce of the Square Mile has certainly shrunk in the past decade, depleted by the move of some companies to out-of-London locations and the defection of others to Westminster where rates and rentals used to be lower.

Another 1,000 jobs will disappear at the end of the year when the Billingsgate fish market shuts and moves down river to Tower Hamlets. In the past decade the workforce of the City has slumped from the half million mark to around 300,000. Most commute to their workplaces, only 8,000 people actually live in the City, some 5,000 of them in the Barbican.

The biggest employer is the Bank of England, with more than 3,000 workers, followed by the City Corporation, the district's administrative local

authority, which, through an archaic system of aldermen, acts as a *de facto* mayor to all of the most important members of the area's ruling class.

Some 75 per cent of the working population earn their living in offices, compared with 58 per cent in central London, the largest category of these being clerical workers.

At the last census, in 1971, some 101,000 clerks, 37,000 typists and shorthand writers, 7,300 telephone operators, and 50 agricultural workers were counted. The proportions are not thought to have changed much except in two categories.

Textiles, which once employed 540 people, have slumped, and the fact that Fleet Street comes within the City borders means that the 1971 estimates for the workforce of the printing industry, which then included 5,600 journalists alone, are now distinctly on the high side.

Whether the workforce of the City will start to rise depends upon the competitiveness of its rent and rates regime. When the corporation revalued in 1974, it was by such an extent that even some banks felt forced to give up their place in the traditional home of their business and move to new premises in Aldwych. Sentiment is unlikely to hold anyone to the Square Mile any more.

Of more immediate importance, as far as employment prospects are concerned, is the question of the City's tourist potential. The Barbican Centre will provide a new home for

the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra, as well as an art gallery, cinemas and restaurants. It may even make the unfortunate Barbican estate resemble something other than a ghost town after dark.

Billingsgate, when it becomes vacant, may be turned into a tourist shopping centre, though there are planning difficulties. And Tower Bridge, which the corporation owns, is to see a new development for the public between them and my company might perhaps provide some clue to their problems?

From the point of view of continued prosperity, the Square Mile would seem to have little cause for worry. Its financial institutions may not be impervious to change, Lloyd's being an obvious example, but their qualities are still much in demand from the rest of the world.

Commodities, shipping, Euro-markets, bullion, all tend to rely on some aspect of the City's skills for their success. The vast majority of the country's visible earnings are generated in the small and crowded square which is bordered by boundaries dating from Roman and medieval times.

If ever there were a case for arguing that there are two Britains, the dealings of the City's affluent financial institutions contrast vividly with the collapse of industry in the Midlands and elsewhere.

DH

Donbar's words of 1501, 'the flower of cities all'.

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MANAGEMENT

Consultancy in the recession

Martin Vandersteen, this year's chairman of the Management Consultants Association, reckons that the nature of the business has changed substantially since he came into it 20 years ago.

Time was when the management consultant was a creature from a strange planet, thinking and talking in a language quite different to that of the earth-bound industrialists and traders who employed his services when driven to it by dire necessity. Now, he says, clients are quite likely to use their management consultants as a pool of labour, highly trained but basically complementary to their existing staff, on which they can draw when the pressure is on.

That, he thinks, reflects the fact that clients have become very much more sophisticated in their approach, so that they can employ internally the sort of techniques that were peculiar to the management consultant 20 years ago. And, because companies are now reluctant to employ staff to cope with peak periods when it might be difficult and/or expensive to shed them, it is a trend he can see accelerating.

Not that the old-style, trouble-shooting consultant has passed into oblivion. On the contrary, he is almost as much in demand as ever, though the nature of his client has changed. According to members of the Management Consultants Association, demand has held up surprisingly well over the past year, and while the number of consultants may have declined slightly—by perhaps 5 per cent, according to Mr Vandersteen, this is largely a result of under-recruiting. Certainly, he says, there has been nothing remotely like the shakeout of 1972.

The worst of the downturn has been overseas, reflecting the impact of a stronger pound. In the United Kingdom, of course, demand from manufacturing industry is some respects well down, because attempts to improve production



Mr Martin Vandersteen, chairman of the Management Consultants Association: providing a highly trained pool of labour.

and marketing have been postponed, and large-scale construction projects that might otherwise have required appraisal have simply been shelved.

As against this, however, there is if anything a stronger demand for consultancy on ways to improve efficiency and cash flow, and data processing work is "resource bound"—that is, there simply are not enough trained consultants to undertake the work on offer. Faced with rapidly deteriorating conditions, British management seems to have been converted wholesale to the view that more rapid access to more information cannot hinder and might help.

Demand for consultancy services from the few relatively healthy sectors of the British economy—oil and gas, the financial sector, and distribution and retailing—is holding up well.

Demand from central government is down, but from local government, curiously enough, it is well up—well up because local authorities are desperate for methods of improving their financial controls, and of

proving to their ratepayers that they are providing value for money.

So one way and another the management consultants seem to be coming through the recession in reasonable shape.

All of which is well enough for the consultants, but what about British industry? Mr Vandersteen admits that consultancy is a "maturing profession", no longer in a phase of rampant growth.

Within his own firm, some 60 per cent of work comes from clients whom the firm has served before, and another 20 per cent from companies to which employees of Arthur Andersen itself, or of one of its previous clients have moved. That can be taken as evidence that Arthur Andersen has many satisfied clients. It can also be taken as evidence that the firm is selling to the converted.

Likewise, the fact that members of the Management Consultants Association have had 95 of *The Times* top 100 companies among their clients may be impressive, but it raises a

great many questions about the smaller companies that either never have used consultants at all or have used them and come away disillusioned by the experience.

It is partly with a view to assisting such potential clients that the Management Consultants Association has this year produced its first directory of member firms and their services to clients. This is large, highly informative, and available free from the MCA.

In addition to an introductory section on client-consultant relations—covering such things as the association's code of professional practice, and some advice on selecting a consultant—it has a section describing the scope of members' services in general, and another giving a general description of each member firm (tends to be pretty anodyne but gives some idea of size and age), a list of the activities it undertakes (full and useful), and a selection of "illustrative engagements".

Of course there are also

addresses, telephone numbers, the names of key personnel and an indication of the firm's overseas connections. Anyone looking for a consultancy firm should be able to get a good idea of which firms are likely to be interested and interesting from this (failing which, the association's executive director will point them in the direction of three or four of them).

One problem, of course, is that not every reputable consultancy firm is a member of the MCA (so far there are 25, and their ranks are swelling by about two a year). The membership qualifications are pretty ferocious (members must have been in practice for at least five years in the United Kingdom; the partners or directors must have had at least ten years' experience; the average length of service with the firm of the whole consulting staff must be at least three years; and at least 25 per cent of the staff must have served with the same firm for five years; and so on).

For this Mr Vandersteen apologises not at all. It may deter the young hopeful but it also keeps out the fly-by-nighters; and the association's executive director runs an annual check to see that members continue to conform.

Given that it is the only association of established management consultants in the United Kingdom, the MCA's activities are still relatively modest in scope, though pursued with vigour once undertaken.

Mr Vandersteen would like to see it undertake conferences and seminars, set up collective training courses for members' staff, and publish a good many more publications. In consultancy terms this is known as "organisation development and policy formation". But even for the consultancy it has to remain a matter of "long term planning".

Adrienne Gleeson
Management Consultants Association,
London SW7 2LG.



Mr John Kapiolotas, Sheraton's British-based vice-president and Denham Place, the hotel group's country headquarters.

How Sheraton found a new image in rural Denham

Like most modern hotel companies, Sheraton has its share of properties in which architectural ingenuity, be it expressed in a shopping precinct, a risk, or a 23-story waterfall, is considered to be at least as important as the quality of room service.

Perhaps the most interesting property, however, is a building which acts as the base for its European, African and Middle East operations, and going so far as to claim to be a "palace of peace" and "a place of peace" in the heart of London. It is a grade one listed building owned by the Allied Breweries pension fund and standing in its own 12-acre grounds in the sleepy Buckinghamshire village of Denham.

Once owned by Harry Saltzman, the James Bond film maker who used it as a home from home for his stars, the house boasts its own chapel, a number of listed period fireplaces and an ambience more in keeping with the life-style of the 1930s bourgeoisie than the day-to-day running of a big American corporation.

Mr John Kapiolotas, the divisional president, who is a native of Akron, Ohio, is

known to interrupt business discussions in his palatial office to point out that a neighbour's horse has just wandered past the window.

When, of course, it is owned by IIT, the huge American conglomerate with a reputation for hard dealing. The company is operating in one of the most hard-nosed and competitive areas of international business, and going so far as to claim to be a "palace of peace" and "a place of peace" in the heart of London. It is a grade one listed building owned by the Allied Breweries pension fund and standing in its own 12-acre grounds in the sleepy Buckinghamshire village of Denham.

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Industry in the regions

City of London

Dunbar's words of 1501, "the flower of cities all".

Quite how much of all this is absorbed by the toilers who pour out of the multiple exits of Bank underground station each morning and ease the City into life is a matter of some speculation. The workforce of the Square Mile has certainly shrunk in the past decade, depleted by the move of some companies to out-of-London locations and the defection of others to Westminster, where rates and rentals used to be lower.

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Textiles, which once employed 540 people, have slumped, and the fact that Fleet Street comes within the City borders means that the 1971 estimates for the workforce of the printing industry, which then included 5,600 journeymen, are now distinctly on the high side.

Whether the workforce of the City will start to rise will depend upon the competitive nature of its rent and rates regime. When the corporation retained in 1974, it was by such an extent that even some banks felt forced to give up their place in the traditional home of their business and move to new premises in Aldwych. Sentiment is unlikely to hold anyone to the Square Mile any more.

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the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra, as well as an art gallery, cinemas and restaurants. It may even make the unfortunate Barbican estate resemble something other than a ghost town after dark.

Billingsgate, when it becomes vacant, may be turned into a tourist shopping centre, though there are planning difficulties. And Tower Bridge, which the corporation runs, is to see a new development for the public between the twin towers.

From the point of view of continued prosperity, the Square Mile would seem to have little cause for worry. Its financial institutions may not be impervious to change, Lloyd's being an obvious example, but their qualities are still much in demand from the rest of the world.

Commodities, shipping, ERM markets, bullion, all tend to rely on some aspect of the City's skills for their success. The vast majority of the country's visible earnings are generated in the small and crowded square which is bordered by boundaries dating from Roman and medieval times.

If there were a case for arguing that there are two Britains, the dealings of the City's affluent financial institutions must contrast vividly with the collapse of industry in the Midlands and elsewhere.

David Hewson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reassessing the value of coal

From the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge

Sir, This is the moment to press government, industry and commerce to use coal instead of oil and gas. There are many reasons—coal is cheaper than oil or gas per therm of heating value, we have plenty of it and so does the world; it is easier and more rewarding to export our oil (and gas) than our coal, alternatively such a policy permits us, if we wish, to reduce the rate of depletion of our oil and gas reserves.

But the most important reason stems from the conclusion of the World Energy Conference and many other bodies including our Department of Energy, which can be summed up in the statement that the world supply of petroleum will be exhausted by the year 1979. Whether this is literally true or not, the peak of petroleum and natural gas production and its decline are clearly visible.

The Department of Energy has been studying the possibility of this fact to consumers by

its pricing policy, and no doubt hoping that industry and others will conserve energy and switch to coal in plenty of time so that their future prosperity will not be prejudiced by energy problems.

Many of us need to wipe the cobwebs off our picture of the coal stakeholder, because modern methods make it possible to burn coal cleanly and with little labour. The drawbacks to the rapid substitution of coal for oil and gas appear to be the lack of cash for the conversion of equipment and the uncertainty about future regulations and supply.

Government should look again at the possibility of giving financial help towards substitution, without having the taxpayer excessively reward those who will save money by switching to coal. The chemical industry and others who are complaining of lack of competition from countries whose governments have an ostrich-like atti-

tude to energy prices, or prefer *dirigisme*, should be especially assisted to adapt to coal, nevertheless.

Uncertainty might be lessened if the Government itself gave a lead. Just as the Property Services Agency and the DBSS showed what could be done in energy conservation, they should now be seen to give a similar lead in the use of coal. Local authorities should also be advised to convert their own large users and to encourage others. To allay uncertainty about supply is a major task of the coal industry, but gas and oil suppliers might be most flexible in their attitude to the provision of emergency supplies.

Government energy policy is based on conservation, coal and nuclear. It is time it began to promote the use of coal much more seriously.

Yours faithfully,
W. R. HAWTHORNE,
Churchill College,
Cambridge CB3 0DS.
March 4.

Rural small industries

From Mr Michael Dower

Sir, I am writing to express the concern of the eight member organisations of Rural Voice, an alliance of national organisations representing rural communities, about the future of the small rural industries in rural areas (CoSIRA).

It is now 20 months since the Government commissioned, and over 12 months since it received, its report of review by civil servants of the work of the Development Commission and its subsidiary CoSIRA. This report has not been published, and the Commission has not consulted on the subject. Now, however, there is a strong rumour that CoSIRA is about to be merged into a larger unit, serving small businesses in both urban and rural areas, and the auspices of the Development Commission and the Department of the Environment, but of the Department of Industry.

We quite understand that urban areas may need a service not unlike that which CoSIRA has so effectively given to the countryside. But we are concerned that CoSIRA's specialist knowledge

of the needs of rural businesses, and its close links to hundreds of such businesses on the ground, should not be weakened. Indeed, we believe that the rural industries, and the vital importance of small firms of all kinds to the health of the rural economy, call for the continued extension of CoSIRA's remit to cover shops, garages and other small enterprises in rural areas. Moreover, the close links between CoSIRA and the Development Commission need to be strengthened, rather than weakened.

For this reason, we should prefer to see CoSIRA retained in its present form with extended rural responsibilities, rather than a wider body, we urge, that it remains semi-autonomous as a rural organisation, with dedicated expertise and resources, and functioning as an executive arm of the Development Commission.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DOWER,
Chairman, Rural Voice,
26 Bedford Square, London, WC1E 3HD.
February 27.

Micro-chip to make the beds and darn socks

From Mr A. F. Bromige

Sir, Iain Murray, in his article, *Gadgets without fears* (March 2), says that the micro-chip revolution promises to banish for ever the drudgery of domestic life and he seems surprised that a sample of housewives experienced some anxiety at being confronted with and being expected to operate a Prestel receiver, a home computer, a video-cassette recorder and a microwave oven.

It is not clear to this household operative how any of the gadgets reduce, in the slightest, let alone banish, what some call drudgery. If the housewife could have seen some use in any of the four articles she was confronted with she would have been able to operate the set as well as the car, the washing machine, or the sewing machine.

If the manufacturer can design a micro-chip to make the beds and to take out the lead sheets of the fire and moving to clean the windows and darn the socks, to cut the sandwiches for the children's lunch and to make the cake and to walk the vacuum cleaner over all the floors, then he needs to have a micro-chip to make a washing machine, and Mr Murray, and the advertising agency he mentions, will find the housewife will learn to operate this wonder-machine in a flash. Until then, she is not going to touch the gadget society that we seem to be becoming.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BROMIGE,
West Holme,
The Ridgeway,
Frisson,
East Sussex BN20 0EZ.

this handicap, but I also cannot appreciate the need for an increasing complexity and multiplicity of functions of some of our household appliances.

I seem to recall that we welcomed the earlier models of clothes driers, clothes wringers, machines and of mangle dryers because these had few programmes and no symbols. I wonder whether manufacturers appreciate that many women like to feel "in control" of their machines and like to adapt their functions to the family's needs and routines.

The advantages of a washing machine is that clothes can be soon back in use, but its advantage is reduced if one has to wait a long time for the machine to start, or a particular programme.

I have two electronic "marvels" in my kitchen—an oven and a mangle dryer—on which the symbols are so unintelligible that I need to have the meaning stuck to adjoining cupboards. Perhaps a man's symbol is a woman's mystery.

The mangle dryer is a great improvement on my old one, as it is much larger and its maintenance is easier. However, it has a multiplicity of programmes (I think eleven) of which I only use two—those for cottons and for manmade fibres. For the latter, I have a choice as to whether or not I wish to iron my shirts and bed linen—surely most of us do?

Similarly, I am puzzled by a programme. This blows cold air to remove unpleasant smells—can any really remain after a machine wash?

I hope these comments will help manufacturers increase their understanding of housewives' needs.
Yours truly,
ANN BROOKE,
Keasdon,
13 Central Avenue,
Eccleston Park,
not the theatre, as I am not a technician.
Lancashire LA24 2QL.
March 2.

Buying a car from British Leyland

From Mr John L. Joly

Sir, Having heard so often of the difficulties facing British Leyland, I wonder whether the following exchange of letters between them and my company might perhaps provide some clue to their problems?

Ours of 6.2.81: "Wishing to order Mini station wagon for our London office. Any chance of a delivery by mid-March?"

Ours of 11.2.81: "We would appreciate receiving your reply to our..."

Theirs: "Do not know for whom this message intended. I pressed a message to Middle East director in Beirut last time. If you can please give me a name I will try to get results for you."

Ours: "We wish to buy one of your cars in England. Would you please reply to our original letter?"

Theirs: "This is Head Office here we have no cars. Please say what kind of car and I will pass..."

in our Piccadilly office. They will assist I'm sure."

BL telexed us on 12.2.81: "Your telex has been referred to us at the motor sales centre in Eccleston. Do you wish to purchase this vehicle for export?"

We replied on 12.2.81: "As stated in our original telex, we want it for our London office. Please could you quote price and delivery..."

BL replied on 12.2.81: "Have passed inquiry to 'Leas and Co.' Please advise address London office for contact."

We replied on 12.2.81 that the office was not yet manned but would be as from March 16. We gave the address and telephone number of our solicitors with the name of our solicitors for reference purposes. We added: "But please place order for car now and advise cost and colour."

On 15.2.81 a different BL office telexed us: "Re: Mini station wagon—London office. Please clarify whether unit is required in UK (RHD or LHD) or in Lebanon. Can then quote delivery price. Please reply by return."

On 17.2.81 we replied: "As already explained, the Mini station wagon we want is for our London office therefore RHD."

On 19.2.81 we received from BL: "Re your inquiry right hand drive Mini estate for delivery in UK please advise whether vehicle to be retained in UK or to be used on temporary basis and then exported..." and we replied: "Cannot see how we can make it any clearer than we want right hand drive Mini estate for delivery and use by London office in UK. There is no question of exporting it. Do hope that this is now clear."

More than two weeks have passed, considerable telex expenses have been incurred and BL have come very close to losing a sale. I wonder how long it would have taken to secure a Renault 5 or a Fiat 127? The telex exchange is still going on.

In my father's day employees in this company who had non-British cars were frowned upon nowadays British cars were seen. Sadly, one understands only too easily why.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. JOLY,
Henry Head and Company
SAL,
172, St. James Street,
Lebanon.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A Chancellor in hostile territory

Who would a Chancellor of the Exchequer be? Rarely can a Chancellor have found himself so friendless in the run-up to a Budget; and it is not as if Sir Geoffrey Howe can have high hopes of winning many new friends tomorrow, whatever he says. For this, inevitably, is going to be a Budget of compromise. It is also going to be a Budget in which the Chancellor and his scriptwriters will require all their presentational skills. On the one hand, the Chancellor must make the case for a more flexible approach to the conduct of policy. On the other, he must show that this is consistent with the Government's continuing determination to pursue a medium-term disinflationary policy to its ultimate conclusion.

The Chancellor's task is a formidable one. When one looks back over the past 18 months the tale is not reassuring: failure to control the broader monetary aggregates as planned; serious doubts over the correct interpretation to be placed on the behaviour of the various monetary measures; the larger-than-forecast fall in output and employment; the uneven spread of this contraction; the failure to get on top of public spending and borrowing.

Against this, one can note the greater mood of realism in at least some areas of wage bargaining, together with the streamlining and restructuring of some sectors of industry. Above all, the Government would probably claim that it is starting to win the battle against inflation.

Overall, however, there can be no doubt that the balance sheet to date is not particularly attractive. The Chancellor must have asked himself a hundred times over: why?

In spite of the falling level of pay settlements, it remains true that "expectations" have not, generally speaking, altered either as sharply or as rapidly as the numbers originally set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy required.

The more serious problem, perhaps, is that the Government itself has failed to deliver on its own territory. It was faced



Sir Geoffrey Howe will present his third Budget tomorrow.

with considerable inherited difficulties on the public sector pay front, but it still cannot claim to have done well. Indeed, it cannot claim to have done especially well in any area of public spending; and it did, of course, grossly underestimate the size of the problem posed by the nationalized industries.

In short, the assumptions on which year one of the MTFs were based have proved grossly over-optimistic. Fiscal policy has been out of line with monetary policy, and monetary policy itself rather too ambitious. As a result, interest rates and the exchange rate have borne too much of the regulatory burden, a fact that has tended to aggravate the situation further.

That the high exchange rate has helped on the inflationary front is not, of course, to be sneezed at. But it now leaves the Government with the additional problem of how to sustain the downward path of inflation given that the exchange rate has already slipped back and could well fall back further.

So what does the Chancellor do? Clearly, a savage Budget is not on. It is accepted that it would lack credibility and almost certainly prove counter-productive in the medium term, even if it hastened a fall in interest rates in the short term.

Likewise, a generally (as opposed to selectively) reflationary Budget should be a non-starter. There is already little enough margin for the Government if it wishes to avoid increasing the risk of renewed inflationary pressures later this year. The underlying rate of inflation has been in single figures for some months now, yet shows no sign of dropping further.

The Chancellor, it seems (taking in the measures proposed last November), will produce a moderately deflationary package. But if that appears a realistic compromise, it will not in itself make the conduct of policy noticeably easier.

The expectation of reduced interest rates has already lowered sterling in the foreign exchange markets. It would be foolhardy to expect that there will be no inflationary trade-off for any higher output secured as a result of this.

Secondly, whatever the Chancellor says about monetary control, it appears that the approach in practice is going to be pragmatic. In other words, the Chancellor will have to take some delicate decisions on interest rate policy as the year wears on and, as far as markets are concerned, the proof of the pudding will have to be in the eating.

Finally, the Government still faces an enormous task in bringing public spending under better control, particularly public sector pay. Until it does that, the real burden of taxation is likely to go on increasing — or the Prime Minister will finally have to consider more radical methods of tackling the problem.

Monopoly policy

Case by case

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission will be working overtime in the next few months to deal with the sudden rush of merger references which have landed at its doors. Within a couple of weeks Lord's bid for the rest of House of Fraser has been referred followed by the proposed takeover of Davy Corporation by the Texas energy group Enserch Corporation. Then followed the decision to refer both the European Ferries approach for Sealink and the merger of the two cross-channel hovercraft companies.

The two latter references are fairly clear-cut. Both give rise to obvious worries about the effect on competition and meet the market share criteria laid down under the 1973 Fair Trading Act. The Lord's/Enserch and Davy/Enserch mergers are different. Both meet the asset criteria under the Act but on the face of it, neither would lead to any concentration of market power which might operate against the public interest; instead, the arguments touch on the much more subjective and less tangible areas concerning public interest—the part of merger policy which is inevitably least predictable and most controversial.

A complaint of industrialists is that when the debate enters this realm—and because of the flexible and non-legalistic approach to mergers in the United Kingdom it frequently does—nobody knows quite where they are.

Mr. Biffen's policy—forgetting about the more bizarre area of newspapers mergers—does not seem to differ from that of his predecessor at the Department of Trade, Mr. Nott, who said last summer that the Government planned a tougher and more sceptical approach to mergers and he held out a particular warning for conglomerate mergers. However, he rejected the more precise and formal approach to merger policy suggested by the last Government's Green Paper. As he demonstrated by the decision not to refer Thorn's bid for EMI, he favoured a case-by-case approach.

The advantages of such a flexible policy are self-evident in a country where promoting competitiveness in the domestic market is not necessarily compatible with promoting international competitiveness. And a further disadvantage of precise statutory criteria is that it can only encourage the kind of meaningless financial manoeuvring which Lord's has been indulging in to try and escape an investigation of its bid for The Observer.

How much mergers should be encouraged or discouraged is a different matter. But the crucial point here is that under the existing law the monopolies commission is only asked to decide whether a merger is likely to operate against the public interest. This does not always make it easy to prevent pointless, empire-building agglomerations,

Survival is success in itself. Hugh Clayton reports on an industry under extreme pressure

Why food prices have marked time

Food is one of the best bargains in the country, thanks to the recession. The position of the mid-1970s, in which food led the inflationary spiral, has been reversed. Food is now making one of the most important contributions to holding down the rate of increase in the cost of living.

Despite steep increases in the prices of the fuel and machinery with which food is produced and distributed, many edible groceries cost little more than a year ago. A few items are slightly cheaper than in March 1980.

Not surprisingly, the state of food prices receives much less public scrutiny than it did five years ago. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, occasionally congratulates himself, but quietly.

He said in answer to a recent parliamentary question from a Conservative: "He will be pleased to know that as a result of the static position in common agricultural policy prices during the past two years, for which this Government has responsibility, food prices have increased far less than prices in general, and should continue to do so."

Mr Walker's comment will bring no comfort to the thousands of employees at food factories and on farms whose jobs have disappeared.

It will surprise the statisticians at Mr Walker's ministry whose latest survey of household food consumption shows that sales of many items have fallen, and that shoppers are "trading down" by purchasing cheaper varieties of the same product. Nobody but Mr Walker will believe the CAP is the prime cause of static food prices.

The minister need not fear being pressed too hard by the Opposition, since in the mid-1970s it made the containing of food price inflation one of its main priorities. Yet the Labour government's panoply of subsidies and

AVERAGE SHOP PRICES (p/lb)			
	1979	1980	1981
Leg of pork	94	93	93
Frozen chicken	42	41	41
Tin of red salmon	80	80	80
Potatoes	7	6	6
Cooking apples	18	18	18
Oranges	22	22	22
Cheese margarine	15	15	15
Instant coffee (100g)	82	82	82
Tin of tomatoes (15oz)	13	13	13

Sources: Farmgate—roads and other; other—Department of Employment and Industry survey.

price control never achieved anything like the results now secured by the brutal operations of the free market. The trade union movement is also maintaining a wise silence at the moment. With the lone exception of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, it called in the mid-1970s for a lower rate of food inflation. That has not been achieved in a spectacular fashion, but only at the expense of the jobs of thousands of trade union members.

The food industry shares all of the difficulties experienced by other business sectors in the recession. Yet there is probably no other large sector of British industry where the recession has manifested itself quite so extensively through price cuts as well as through redundancies. The food industry has a few local difficulties which have helped to worsen its plight.

Last year, as gardeners will recall, was a good one for home produce. Since an increasing proportion of home gardeners keep their crops in the winter, the commercial distributors of processed fruit and vegetables have lost sales.

The food processing and retailing industries were suffering from over capacity before the recession took effect. They were, therefore, ill-equipped to meet a period in which the disposable incomes of many of their customers were cut through unemployment and short-time working. The following timetable shows how the recession has affected the food sector in the past six months.

October 1980: Marks & Spencer announces first profit cut for 25 years; 1,600 redundancies announced by chocolate and frozen food companies. November: United Biscuits to shed 1,700 jobs over two years; 500 redundancies announced at bakeries in Glasgow; Tesco scraps staff Christmas bonus for first time in 20 years. December: 400 jobs to go at Lockwood's canning factory.

January 1981: Imperial Group announces 430 redundancies at Smiddy's canning factory; Tate & Lyle decides to close Liverpool cane sugar refinery with loss of 1,600 jobs. February: job cuts announced by British Sugar Corporation, Buxted Poultry, Kraft Foods, Metal Box, March: Fisons announces 1980 loss on fertilizers; Lockwood's calls in a receiver.

Whatever Mr Walker may say about the agricultural sector, the food industry is now facing a greater effect in holding food prices back. The sectors of the food business which have prospered have been those which sell the cheapest and the dearest products. The food business is now being hit by the recession in a way which is able to fall in household income. When the money coming into a family drops, the family still has to pay its rent, rates and fuel bills. It usually decides to keep its television set and its car, and if it smokes, it usually smokes on. Cuts often descend on food.

At the upper end of the income scale,

there is still a buoyant market for expensive prepared dishes that enable the wealthy householder to offer attractive food for a high outlay, but with little time spent on preparation. Cakes are doing well because they are cheap and, in sufficient quantities, filling. Frozen supreme de volaille is doing well, because it enables the affluent family to enjoy a complicated dish without taking the trouble of preparing it.

It is in the middle income range and in the wide mainstream of the grocery market that the recession has taken its greatest toll. The best customers of the food industry are not the wealthy families with executive incomes who live in semi-rural commuter belts.

They spend a lot, but they are liable to have jobs in which they expend little energy. They also tend to be local customers of health food shops, which are not widely supplied by the largest companies in the food industry.

The favourite family of the food industry is one in what is, or used to be, a company town. The family will have a father with some years to go to retirement and three strapping sons, each of whom will earn a wage locally and contribute some of it to the family housekeeping money. The family's collective appetites will be gigantic, and the mother will take pride in satisfying it with immense joints on Sundays, with lippers, pies, stews and chops through the week.

There is the type of family at which the food industry aims much of its advertising. It is also the type most hit by the recession. It now uses margarine instead of butter. It no longer eats bacon and eggs for breakfast. Instead of filling its lunch boxes with beef sandwiches and fruit pies, it must now rely on instant pot noodles and biscuits.

Black days for white goods

Derek Harris

Goods from Italy and owed much to two particular events: a temporary halt in supplies from Italy which was having financial problems, and the ending of an own-label supply contract with Zanussi by the General Electric Company's Household subsidiary.

Indesit is now back in the market and Zanussi—which is advertising very heavily on television—is apparently spending more than Hoover on a marketing campaign aimed at boosting British sales under the Zanussi label and the associated Zoppas trade name.

Imports, of course, are not the only problem. Exporting is becoming a lot more difficult. Hoover and Electrolux, the Swedish multinational which manufactures vacuum cleaners, refrigerators and freezers at Luton, Bedfordshire, export a large proportion of their production.

The two companies between them account for most British vacuum cleaner exports. Hoover exports more than 50 per cent of all British washing machines and Electrolux claims two-thirds of British refrigerator exports.

In normal times that is a positive advantage. But the strong pound has meant that margins are being hammered, says Mr Jimmy James, Electrolux's managing director.

The currency effect could put up British goods prices abroad by between 20 per cent and 30 per cent yet one cannot pull out of these markets: you would never get them back.

Something has to be done because, with the white goods market as a whole down 7.5 per cent in volume last year on an annual comparison, the earliest chance of a market upturn is probably next year. Cyclically

the market is then due for an upturn, recession permitting.

The Electrolux response to the squeezed market in white goods is expected to be a widening of its range and a determined attack on more sectors. The same thing is happening at Philips. Hoover so far has not taken that route although there are signs of some diversification, at present into a range of home safety goods.

But Hoover's main thrust will still be more up-market, relying not only on the more reliable electronic circuitry found in the new generation of washers but on the higher spin speed machines which it pioneered in Britain.

In the wake of the Hoover redundancies talk in the trade is revolving round the possibility of at least a couple of independent manufacturers going to the wall, probably one in the washer sector and the other in refrigeration.

At least one of the bigger white goods companies might be wound down if profitability continues to suffer, it is being suggested.

That might make it easier for the survivors but new features to keep ahead of the market will still be vital in the market share battle. An example is a Philips innovation, developed with ICI, of a plastic tub for washing. It is a volume production job but cheaper because better stability simplifies the engineering. The tub, which is not the stainless steel liner drum to be seen inside a machine but the water holder outside it, should also offer cheaper running costs because of less water heat loss.

The other challenge for the British makers is how far they can keep prices rises within the inflation rate. That puts the emphasis on bringing internal costs down—which means a lot more jobs at risk before this year is out as the makers turn to new machinery to improve productivity.



Bribery was used to help clear ships in Lagos harbour.

The corruption that grips Nigeria

Business can be expensive in Nigeria these days. The overcrowding of Lagos is the main cause for the corruption that is rife in the country according to one theory advanced by a foreign airline official. "What has happened is that everybody suddenly needs to be in Lagos because of the oil and international trade. If one needs a room, a passport, a document, somewhere will want some extra money to help you. Mind you, they will not ask for it but you will know what to do."

As we spoke, a man in uniform demanded to see our passports. My most experienced visitor advised against it with our proof of the need to see the passports.

He told me: "In a moment he will threaten to arrest us. But all that will happen for now is that he will say you are not a tourist. He will want to see your passport and will offer to have this corrected or overlook the whole affair if possible. That 'if possible' means money. Don't give in."

We did not and the arrest threat was made. But in the end nothing came of it and he went away.

There is corruption on a large scale but nobody wants to be quoted of course. A government official told me in Kano: "I am afraid we have all been used to this way of life and it will now take years to break the appalling habit."

A British businessman, snatching a few days' rest in Jos, a hill station with moderate temperature, told me: "I

know there is no such thing as a free lunch but here they want a free car to bring them to the lunch table. Documents are lost or taken forever. Phones do not work—I have not been able to ring London for more than a week—lifts do not work and goods are in short supply but there is always someone who can get you anything you want—for money, whether it is legal or not. Regrettably one has to fall in with this way of life or go under."

A container terminal official said: "Corruption is a way of life. I suppose, but it all started in the days of the backlog in the port of Lagos. It could have taken months and months to get your goods cleared even with paying a corrupt official, so one must pay."

Others put corruption down to envy and the wealth in the wake of the oil industry. A hotel manager in Port Harcourt suggested: "It is creeping in a European effort to get bigger tips to get extras. It is almost coming to the point where the waiters will want a tip to tell a customer what is on the menu. It is ridiculous and worrying."

Back in London, I asked the Inland Revenue information service whether I could charge the corruption money against income tax. I explained the corruption was not in the United Kingdom but in West Africa. "Oh you have been to Nigeria, have you, sir?"

He cannot be charged as back-handers or bribery, per se, but apparently one has to use one's common sense.

John Keeble

Business Diary profile: Servants no longer civil

The Civil Service unions today embark upon a challenge to the Government unprecedented in the history of both, a challenge that could prove a watershed in industrial relations for state employees formerly noted for their moderation.

To mount an overt political challenge to a government, particularly a Conservative administration, would have been unthinkable 10 years ago for a grouping of unions which had been regarded by the trade union movement as almost part of the establishment.

The inherent moderation still exists among many of the 50,000 white collar staff organized by the nine unions in the Council of Civil Service Unions, but there has been a perceptible change in attitudes over the past few years. No longer are the servants as civil as they were.

When John Ward's First Division Association of civil servants, which represents top officials up to, and including, the rank of permanent secretary, votes to join a campaign of industrial action, government ministers must realize that things are not what they used to be.

The nine unions represent such a disparate group of people, a large proportion of whom vote Conservative, that it is remarkable there should be any agreement on a programme

of industrial action designed to undermine government policies. Today's one-day strike is the opening shot in what could be a prolonged campaign of highly selective action with about 2,000 civil servants in key areas called out on strike at any one time.

Lord Soames, the Lord President of the Council, and the

Civil Service minister, has returned from his triumph in Salisbury to guerrilla warfare of another sort on the home front.

The nine unions in the Council of Civil Service Unions, which has 220,000 members who are in the main low paid clerical workers and typists, to the FDA, with about 8,000 members.

The CPSA has a history of long and bitter internal political warfare, which to some extent has been muted for the time being since the right wing overwhelming control of the executive in a new "pithead" style ballot last spring.

Mrs Kate Losinska, wife of a Polish Battle of Britain pilot and staunch opponent of the left, this year seeks reelection as president of the union while at the same time travelling the country urging support for the campaign to elect her to the role as chairman of the council.

The CPSA with its right-wing leadership is now in the moderate camp and with the leadership of only one of the unions, Gerry Gillman's Society of Civil and Public Servants leaning toward the left, the Government must have been confident that the unions would not be prepared to join battle this year.

The reason why the unions are united, and who knows how long that unity is going to last, is a sense of common grievance at what they see as successive

attacks by the Government on the Civil Service, culminating in the decision to suspend their pay agreement based on "fair comparisons" and instead use cash limits as the determining factor for pay this year.

There can be no doubting the unions' industrial muscle. In addition to having around eight in ten white collar civil servants as members, and in some government departments it is as high as nine, their members work in crucially important areas of government operations.

They include the Inland Revenue Staff Federation has many of its 60,000 members in key positions in PAYE tax computer centres.

Then there is Gillman's Society of Civil and Public Servants (105,000 members) and Bill McCall's Institution of Professional Civil Servants (100,000 members) which in the main represents higher grades, with the former used to cause disruption among customs staff and in the VAT computer centre at Southend while the institution's membership includes air traffic and sea port controllers, scientists and naval dockyard staff.

The 40,000 members of Les Moody's Civil Servants' Union include messengers, chauffeurs, members of the Royal Household (exempted by the Union from striking today) and staff in Parliament, as well as cleaners and security staff.

Tom Casey's Association of

Government Supervisors and Radio Officers, with about 10,000 members, could play a significant role in the campaign should the unions carry out industrial action to escalate the action if the Government retaliates by suspending workers involved in the disruption.

In addition to controlling computerized stores in the Ministry of Defence, the association has members who work in sensitive communications centres such as the General Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham.

The Council of Civil Unions was established last May to succeed the Civil Service National Whitley Council (Staff Side) which was the previous representative body at national level. The aim was to increase lay involvement in decision-making at the highest level and also to reflect the greater awareness that the unions were "coming out" and are no longer to be regarded as staff associations.

The secretary general of the council is Bill Kendall, a man given to reading works of the great philosophers. At the moment he is ploughing through Pascal, a French philosopher here says: "Whatever the tone of the play, the final act is bloody."

Curtain up is today.

David Felton



Guerrilla warfare threatens in the Civil Service: Lord Soames (right), Lord President of the Council and Civil Service minister, and, from top to bottom, Bill Kendall, Tony Christopher, Bill McCall and Ken Thomas, the Civil Service trade union leaders.

BETT BROTHERS LIMITED

The BETT-ETH Annual General Meeting of Bett Brothers Limited held at the Registered Office of the Company, 91, Old Street, London EC1A 3HS, on 24th March, 1981.

The following are extracts from the unaudited Statement of the Chairman, Mr. Albert A. Bett:

Accounts

I have pleasure in submitting my Report to the Shareholders on the Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st August, 1980.

The Group Profit for the year ended 31st August, 1980, after meeting all charges, including depreciation, but before providing for taxation, amounted to £2,362,793 as compared with £2,308,311 in the previous year.

After making provision for taxation and deducting minority interest, the profit amounted to £1,678,529 as compared with £1,515,349 in the previous year.

An Interim Ordinary Dividend of 1200p per share has been paid and the Directors, taking into consideration the improvement in Group Profit as compared with our estimate, now recommend a Final Dividend of 1800p per share payable on 9th March, 1981, making a total dividend for the year of £3000p per share, compared with £2500p for the previous year.

Certain shareholders waived the interim dividend aggregating £26,023 net and have also waived the proposed final dividend aggregating £76,302 net, thereby reducing the cost of dividends to the Company from £105,000 to £28,775 (or £0.2525 to £0.4744p).

Trading Activities

I am pleased to report that both turnover and profit have been maintained at satisfactory levels despite the adverse trading conditions under which our Company has had to operate during the year.

With remaining selective in tendering for open competitive work in the general contracting sector of the industry, several worthwhile contracts were obtained and work on these contracts is well progressing smoothly.

Private housing sales were maintained at an acceptable level in the light of a depressed market suffering from the effects of high interest rates and mortgage restraint.

Although the major contribution towards turnover and profits continues to flow from these construction activities, the diversified activities of the Group made an enhanced contribution as compared with the previous year.

Future Prospects

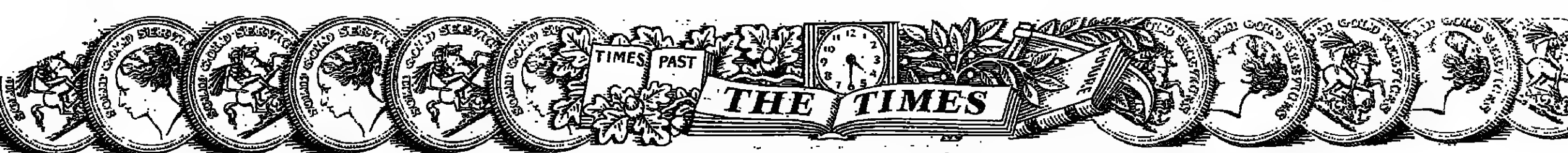
The volume of new work on the building industry continues to decline and fierce competition has restricted itself in the competitive tender sector. I foresee little improvement in this situation during the ensuing twelve months and we will do well to maintain turnover in this sector in our determination to protect profitability.

I expect the reduction in interest rates announced in November 1980 to stimulate demand in the private housing sector, especially now that the Building Societies have followed the Banks with a lowering of their mortgage rates, and our Company is well equipped to take advantage of an improved situation in this field.

I look forward, also, to increased contributions towards profits from our Group's diversified interests and we are encouraging the expansion of Filbeck (P.H.V.) Ltd., our Plumbing, Heating and Ventilation Subsidiary which had a most satisfactory year in terms of both turnover and profitability, by opening a branch in Edinburgh and expanding the existing branch in Aberdeen.

In a period of declining recession, it is difficult to forecast the current year's results with any firm conviction, but in the light of what I have said above and our performance in this past year, we are confident that there are reasonable prospects of maintaining our profit and turnover at acceptable levels and all our energies will be directed towards these ends.

ALBERT A. BETT, Chairman



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Aldermaston plant is brought to halt by Civil Service strike

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston where nuclear warheads are being developed for Britain's next generation of strategic deterrent, was among defence establishments affected by yesterday's Civil Service strike.

The submarine base on the Clyde, where 82 per cent of the non-industrial workers obeyed the unions' call, was another. But operations of the Polaris submarine force were not affected.

Those involved in Wintex-81, Nato's biggest command post exercise for two years, which opened yesterday, were hampered by a shortage of communications staff. Signals were dispatched and received more slowly than planned.

It was the second time in succession that a Wintex exercise has been affected by civil servants' industrial action, and as the operation continues for two weeks the unions will have further opportunity to disrupt Britain's participation in it.

Altogether 40 per cent of the 112,000 non-industrial defence employees in Britain did not turn up for work, according to the Ministry of Defence. But the response was uneven, bringing production to a halt in some places such as Aldermaston while in others the effect was minimal.

Worst affected were the Royal Ordnance Factories where 90 per cent took the day off, and the naval dockyards. Five ordnance factories at Chorley, Lancashire; Bishopclee, Renfrew; Bridgwater, Somerset; Glasgow, Glasgow; and Nottingham, were forced to close, sending home their industrial workers on full pay. The dockyards at Rosyth (more

than 95 per cent) and Chatham (80 per cent) had to take similar action, while Devonport (35 per cent) and Portsmouth (70 per cent) struggled through.

RAF Support Command workshops were also seriously affected. As many as 98 per cent went on strike at a maintenance unit at Carlisle, while there was a similar response in other centres. The Ministry's Royal Signals and Radar Establishment at Malvern managed to keep going although more than half its Civil Service workforce stayed away.

In Army workshops the response hovered between 60 and 70 per cent. But the Army establishments in general suffered only an 18 per cent loss of labour, and the distribution was patchy.

In Northern Ireland 22 per cent stayed away, but without causing operational difficulties. The Army was most affected in Wales where the strike was 43 per cent effective. Eastern District and Scotland, however, reported little difficulty. In most Army regions the response was concentrated in specific areas such as workshops and similar centres with a high civilian labour force. In London District only 1 per cent stayed away.

Scottish action: About 50,000 civil servants were reported to have supported the strike in Scotland. All airports, government offices, courts and public buildings were affected (Ronald Faux writes from Edinburgh). Railways in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen were well supported and indefinite action began at key military bases.

At Faslane staff responsible for documenting supplies being loaded on board nuclear submarines were on strike and at Pitreavie Castle civil servants dealing with maintenance of equipment did not turn up.

Listening to foreign intelligence disrupted

By Peter Heimessey

Among the more worrying pieces of information considered at yesterday afternoon's meeting of the Cabinet committee charged with handling the consequences of the one-day Civil Service strike was the serious disruption to the Composite Signals Organisation, the supplier of essential raw material to the Secret Intelligence Service and the Ministry of Defence's military intelligence establishment.

The Ministry and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office declined to give figures for those on strike in the sensitive area of communications intelligence. But the central operations room in the Civil Service Department, passing strike information to the Cabinet's Economy (official Civil Service) Committee, will have reported a shutdown of several sections of the organisation's seven listening stations in the United Kingdom and its central installation, the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham.

A substantial number of administrative staff reported for work. A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said, on behalf of GCHQ, that the percentage of staff did not turn up and there was some effect on operations.

Union sources put the response to the strike call at 90 per cent among cypher and communications personnel responsible for technical operations at Cheltenham and its outstations.

Their action could well mean that the country lost the bulk of one day's worth of signals intelligence, an activity where speed is of the essence in Whitehall's attempt to monitor the communications of potentially hostile powers.

All but one of the seven listening stations and the Cheltenham headquarters will be back at work today. The exception is the composite signals room at GCHQ, which tracks Soviet satellites.

The Council of Civil Service Unions has chosen Bide for selective industrial action which will continue for some time. Whitehall is taking the threat to Bide seriously.



Safe for pedestrians: A maintenance man at work on Heathrow's silent runway yesterday.

Only one person at No 10 fails to report for work

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Believing that they have foiled any Budget delays planned by Civil Service strikers, Whitehall sources were confident last night that the necessary steps would be taken to ensure that the Budget is passed on time.

Studied indifference was described as the Prime Minister's response to the Civil Service strike. Her attitude throughout has been that the strike has been absolutely unjustified.

However, one person in her office disagreed. He was described as a "seconded" or trainee in the Prime Minister's press office, and he alone of the No 10 civil servants did not turn up yesterday.

He will, it is claimed, not be summarily returned to his department but will serve out his term as the parlance goes.

Whitehall sources admitted that a fifth of the six hundred staff, apparently mostly junior civil servants, failed to work.

that any value-added tax changes take immediate effect, although it is said that any VAT changes would be a big surprise.

New duties would take immediate effect on goods in bonded stores; that applies to petrol pumps, so petrol prices are likely to rise immediately.

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Shoppers sail past customs on a pre-Budget spree

From Frances Gibb
Dover

Holidaymakers returning from the Continent yesterday had the chance of a pre-Budget bonanza with customs officials in south coast ports out on strike.

But they showed great restraint, either through honesty, lack of money or sheer ignorance of the dispute.

"Why didn't somebody tell us about it?" complained one traveller on seeing the empty desks behind the red "Something to Declare" and green "Nothing to Declare" channels at Dover. Others feared they might have been caught red-handed and felt it was not worth the risk.

But the chance was not lost on everyone. Two men from Thanet, Kent, came through the customs barrier laden with plastic bags bursting with drink, chocolates, electrical goods and other souvenirs from Boulogne.

"We always go before Budget day," one of them said, "but it did make it that bit more worth it today without the customs."

Customs officers are sure that many travellers had taken advantage of their absence.

Mr James Feeney, an official with the Council of Civil Service Unions and a customs officer, said people had been telephoning him and his colleagues that morning to make sure the strike was really on.

More travellers than usual had gone for day trips judging by the cars in the car park; ship's crews, he said, had come aboard with "very long arms".

On a normal day shift about 15 cars from each of 14 ships would go through the red channel and about 20 would be stopped going through the green channel, of which 70 per cent were usually above the legal allowance.

All passengers with something to declare were invited to make use of a so-called "honesty box" into which they were asked to put a form stating what they had imported, and giving their names and addresses.

"But how many people do you think use that?" Mr Feeney said. "It is usually full of notes just taking the mick."

But Mr Neil Tanner, a traffic marshal, said that the same number of cars as usual were going through the red channel and their drivers making use of the honesty box.

An estimated 250 customs workers were on strike yesterday, representing more than 90 per cent of the workforce.

Home Office count: The Home Office said last night that 2,541 people in the department were on strike, 26.6 per cent of those employed there. (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes.) They included 253 immigration officers, about half the number who would be at work at any one time.

In the prison department, about 700 of the 3,000 administrative grade civil servants did not work. Some prison officers took supporting action, but the running of establishments was said not to be affected.

Picket at Bevin ceremony

By Our Political Editor

Shadow Cabinet. Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said that the picket line was to be maintained.

Regret was later voiced by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, for any distress caused to guests by what he termed action "to disrupt" the ceremony.

Department attempts to negotiate a dispensation with the strikers failed.

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Business as usual for passengers and flight controllers at Luton airport

By Arthur Reed
Luton Correspondent

Luton airport on a wet and blustery Monday hardly ranks among the world's glamorous aviation crossroads, but yesterday it took on an unaccustomed character for passengers.

As one of a handful of airports in Britain operating in spite of the strike of civil servants, including air traffic

controllers, it handled 16 airliner departures and 17 arrivals carrying a total of five thousand people to and from holidays in the sunshine.

While no aero engines were started on the runways of Luton, Gatwick, Luton was full of hustle and bustle.

Jet airliners in the livery of Britannia Airways and Monarch Airlines roared off into the low

cloud. In the terminal building, passengers made last-minute purchases, played on space invaders machines, or munched piles of sandwiches.

All that activity was made possible because Luton is a local authority airport. Its air traffic controllers are employed by the borough council, not the Civil Aviation Authority. They are not members of the civil

service unions, the withdrawal of whose controller members virtually closed the big air traffic control centre at West Drayton, near Heathrow.

Controllers at Luton, using their radar which includes one of the few secondary surveillance radars in the country that enables them to see the aircraft on screens and to identify them with call sign and height,

handed departing airliners over to the local authority airfield controllers at Southend. Those controllers saw the aircraft out of British airspace and into the hands of French, Belgian or Dutch controllers.

The Luton radar covers an area of 300 sq miles and up to 3,500 ft altitude, so that the airliners had to fly lower than usual.

Economists criticize Government

Two of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's economic advisers criticized the Government progress last night on BBC Television's *Panorama*. Professor Friedrich Hayek said he was alarmed at the show movement on union reform. "The minister in charge of it is not in favour of radical alteration. I have no hope that so long as the matter is in his hands the necessary things will be done," he said.

Professor Milton Friedman, on the same programme, said he understood that government spending had gone up. The prospects were not very good unless that was corrected.

He blamed resistance from bureaucracy, the Civil Service and the Conservative Party, "not truly united," for the fact that many fine objectives were not being carried out.

But he praised the Prime Minister for sticking by her guns, and said a fall in inflation could lead to a strong boom in the economy.

Transport Bill for the guillotine

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

The Transport Bill was successfully guillotined in the Commons yesterday when it was allocated a timetable requiring its committee stage to be completed by the end of this month.

The Bill, which in the eyes of Labour MPs introduces a number of horrid proposals for the British Railways Board, the Transport Docks Board and the National Ports Council, has been dragging itself painfully through Parliament with little to show for the time so far spent in committee.

Yesterday Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, gave a full and horrendous account of the verbal Olympics showing that in 17 sittings spread over 55 hours only five pages of the 77-page Bill had been dealt with. If they had been dealt with, Mr Pym added, they would still be in committee well into 1982.

As if that was not sufficiently blood-curdling, the House was further informed that Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull, East, had spoken on one amendment for two hours and 40 minutes.

It is one of the more curious customs of the Commons that if Opposition is to be wasting time or progressing its feet on controversial legislation, its only redress is to introduce a timetable motion which itself has to be debated for three hours.

Naturally, Mr John Silkin, leading yesterday from the Labour front bench, expressed his shock and horror that such a waste of time was being made.

One MP brought the House to its toes with an account of that the address said to the producer and Mr Albert Bowden, a final plea that his colleagues had acted with remarkable restraint.

The Tory benches shuddered slightly at the thought of what an unrestrained Mr Prescott might have achieved. But the crisis of anguish fell on deaf ears and the motion was carried by 303 votes to 225, a government majority of 68.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Mrs McAliskey a likely candidate

From Christopher Thomas
Coalbrook, co Tyrone

Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, the former MP for Mid-Ulster, declared herself a probable candidate for the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency yesterday, caused by the death last week of Mr Frank Maguire, a close friend of hers.

She also plans to resume work in the National H-Blocks Committee, she said, meeting in her home town of Coalbrook.

Sinn Féin is also thinking of fielding a candidate, for the first time since 1955, when it captured Fermanagh and Mid-Ulster with two abstentionist candidates who never took their seats.

Mrs McAliskey (née Devlin) spoke of many unanswered questions after the assassination attempt on her two months ago. She said she was indebted to a young British soldier who saved her husband's life and probably saved hers.

Her right leg is still in plaster and she is using crutches; three of the seven or eight bullets that hit her smashed into bones.

Mrs McAliskey said that many questions over the attempt on their lives would probably never be answered. Why, for example, were four paratroopers on hand "almost as I hit the ground"?

They did not belong to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, stationed locally. The four men asked for a telephone but it had been cut by the attackers. The soldiers claimed their radio was not working, Mrs McAliskey said.

The paratroopers, who had arrested the three men outside the bungalow, had left without giving medical help but promised to get it. For about 20 minutes she and her husband were without help until the Argylls arrived at the bungalow on the outskirts of the town.

She lay where she was shot, on the bedroom floor. Their three young children remained calm "and I did not hear them cry," Mrs McAliskey said.

She had expressed thanks to the Argylls who had administered medical help, to the bungalow and during the helicopter flight to hospital, especially to one whose name she did not know.

"Had he not given assistance to me and applied a tourniquet to my husband, we would probably both be dead. Certainly, my husband would be."

The Fermanagh by-election raises a number of intriguing questions. The Social Democratic and Labour Party did not officially fight the seat in 1979 because of a bitter internal squabble, but there is little doubt that it will field a candidate this time.

If Mrs McAliskey stands, it is doubtful that Sinn Féin will fight the seat because it will tend to split the nationalist vote.

General election: M. F. Maguire (Ind) 23,398; A. Currie (SDLP) 10,785; L. Satal (UUP) 10,607; P. Acheson (Alliance) 1,070; Ind 4,987.

Neutrality in Ireland, page 14

GLC accused of censorship over 'Romans'

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The Greater London Council's decision not to increase its grant to the National Theatre because of the play *The Romans in Britain* was "retrospective censorship", the Arts Council said yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Robinson, Arts Council chairman, said it regretted the decision to penalize the National for just one production out of 16 in a very successful year.

Such censorship was "all the more deplorable" in that the production was approved by the theatre's board, of which the leader and chief whip of the GLC were members.

Mr Frederick Weyer, chairman of the GLC's arts committee, said: "I am very surprised at such a statement, especially in view of some of the recent Arts Council decisions."

Rejecting the charge of censorship, he said the GLC had a right to review what the public was getting for its money.

West End theatres crisis 'a threat to tourism'

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

If the present crisis in the West End theatre were to persist, other industries, including tourism, would be affected, a Commons committee was told last night.

Mr John Gale, chairman of the Theatre National Committee, the body which speaks for the industry, said he had worked in the theatre for 35 years and this was the first time one third of the West End's forty theatres had been closed.

He considered it "lunatic" that the Inland Revenue should be losing so much money because of those closures.

The theatre was the training ground for many people employed in television. "Our theatre and our television are the best in the world by far, and television will suffer if this is not trained in the theatre."

Mr Gale was giving evidence to the Select Committee for Education, Science and the

Seal-culling protest despite ban

By Hugh Clayton

About 400 demonstrators against seal-culling walked through London to a rally yesterday despite a government ban on all marches this month.

Their route of almost two miles led from the south side of Westminster Bridge to Speakers' Corner.

They were accompanied by policemen who told them to proceed in groups of 20 at intervals of two minutes without interrupting traffic by walking in the road.

Demonstrators said they had been assured by the police that such activity would not constitute a march as defined by the government.

The demonstration was organized by the International Fund for Animal Welfare for protest against the annual cull of young harp seals which is about to begin in Newfoundland.

Floods damage homes and land in Wales and Dorset

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Mentally handicapped children were yesterday moved from a special school near Bridgend in Mid Glamorgan as flood warnings were given for several rivers in south Wales.

Flood water edged close to the children's school, and volunteers and army sappers helped them to move after the warnings that the evening high tide could cause the flood water to rise to a dangerous level.

Unrelenting rain flooded hundreds of acres of agricultural land and some houses became waterlogged. Traffic in Cardiff was blocked, and some houses were flooded.

Roads between Corfe C and Swanage and Dorchester and Weymouth were closed during the afternoon and other busy routes threatened.

The police in Weymouth said it was a matter of time before the River Arne overflowed and threatened to flood the town.

One crumb of comfort Dorset last night was the fact that the sea was rough enough to come over Chesil Bank, as happened yesterday when homes were ruined.

ened to burst its banks. Corfe Castle, homes flooded with two feet of water and at Swanage workmen pump out houses.

Sandbags were piled up shops at Southill shopping centre, Weymouth, as a river burst its banks flooded a supermarket.

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Weather forecast and recordings

Today

Sun rises: 6.26 am
Moon rises: 8.45 am
Sun sets: 5.56 pm
Moon sets: 11.22 pm

First quarter: March 13.
Lighting up: 6.26 pm to 5.54 am.
High water: London Bridge, 4.19 am, 7.5m; 4.49 pm, 7.3m; Avonmouth, 10.01 am, 13.7m; 10.15 pm, 13.1m; Dover, 1.21 am, 6.8m; 1.45 pm, 6.6m; Hull, 8.54 am, 7.6m; 9.08 pm, 7.9m; Liverpool, 1.42 am, 9.5m; 1.59 pm, 9.7m; 1.1 am, 0.348m; 1.1 am, 3.280m.

A major airstream covers much of the United Kingdom with troughs of low pressure moving NE across many districts.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, East Anglia, E Midlands, E England: Bright intervals possible at first, probably rain at times; wind SW, fresh, max temp 12° to 14° (54° to 57°).
SE, central S, central N England, W Midlands: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle, hill fog; wind SW fresh; max temp 12° (54°).
S, S Wales: Cloudy, hill fog developing; wind SE, fresh to strong; max temp 6° to 8° (43° to 46°).
N Ireland: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle, hill fog patches; wind S or SW, moderate; max temp 10° to 11° (50° to 52°).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Continuing unsettled with rain in many places; generally mild.
Sea passages: S North Sea.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fs, fog; r, rain; s, sun.

Channel Islands, SW, NW England: Windy, strong, occasional outbreaks of rain, some heavy and prolonged, hill and coast fog; wind SW, fresh; max temp 11° to 12° (52° to 54°).
Lake District, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Cloudy, hill becoming drizzly, hill and coast fog; wind fresh max temp 10° to 12° (50° to 54°).
Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland: Dull, periods of rain moving N and turning to drizzle, hill fog; wind SE, S, fresh; max temp 8° (46°).
NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Dull with periods of rain, hill fog developing; wind SE, fresh to strong; max temp 6° to 8° (43° to 46°).
N Ireland: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle, hill fog patches; wind S or SW, moderate; max temp 10° to 11° (50° to 52°).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Continuing unsettled with rain in many places; generally mild.
Sea passages: S North Sea.

Strait of Dover, English Channel: Windy, strong, occasional outbreaks of rain, some heavy and prolonged, hill and coast fog; wind SW, fresh; max temp 11° to 12° (52° to 54°).
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max 6 am 6 pm, 12°C (54°F); mid 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity 6 pm, 93 per cent. Rain 24 h 6 ml. Bar, mean sea level 6 1016.5 millibars rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

The strike of civil servants prevented the Meteorological Office from providing weather forecast maps.

Overseas selling prices
AUSTRALIA: 2s 10d. AUSTRIA: 2s 10d. BELGIUM: 2s 10d. CANADA: 2s 10d. DENMARK: 2s 10d. FRANCE: 2s 10d. GERMANY: 2s 10d. GREECE: 2s 10d. HOLLAND: 2s 10d. ITALY: 2s 10d. JAPAN: 2s 10d. KOREA: 2s 10d. LUXEMBOURG: 2s 10d. NETHERLANDS: 2s 10d. NORWAY: 2s 10d. PORTUGAL: 2s 10d. SWEDEN: 2s 10d. SWITZERLAND: 2s 10d. UNITED STATES: 2s 10d. UNITED KINGDOM: 2s 10d.

One militan pedestrian ruffles calm of Whitehal

By Craig Seton

A militant pedestrian on the picket line caused the Treasury to cause the ruffle of alarm in White yesterday as white workers abandoned their d in the practice of the Service and picketed the government departments.

The Treasury pickets call policeman and the pickets warned about their behaviour - otherwise the day strike in White appeared to have been ma by politeness, good humour pouring rain.

Claims about the effect the strike were many varied, ranging from a run that communications bet the Foreign Office and esies abroad had been halte to good-humoured sugges that the Secretary of State Scotland would have diffi answering questions at Commons today.

The most senior civil serv were no on the picket line. Permanent secretaries staye their posts and although s under secretaries and assis secretaries were said to joined the strike they were to be seen under umb outside the ministries, messengers and clerical cers shared picket duty.

The unions involved strictly limited the picket kee within the Governm courtyes.

At Downing Street, Mr Thatcher, the Prime Minis on, driving a sports car, Mr Victor Popov, the S Ambassador, swished thr the barrier and past the p without incident.

The drivers of a laundry and a GPO vehicle refuse cross a picket line and pickets were cheered by thought that the Prime Min would go without her mail clean laundry. But they fa to spot Lord Soames, the a ster responsible for the t Service, who is dealing with their pay claim, leave Downing Street huddled gium in front of a chauffeur-driven, outside the door.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State Social Services, had tried point out the error of t ways, but other minis including Sir Keith Jos Secretary of State for Indu and Mr Francis Byn, Leade the House, had ignored the a picket said: "We are of the image we have brotles and cups of tea. broly brigade are all in and they will find out h how much they miss us."

Mr Patrick Jenkin said: "Without us t the work the ministers going to have to start u their brains."

Mr Robert Taylor, a cler officer picketing the Fore Office, said work on codes cyphers had been abandon for the day.

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